

NEW DIMENSIONS IN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

**Prof.(Dr.) K.B. Astahna
Vipul Pancholi**



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CHAPTER 1

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

India's foreign policy has undergone significant transformations since its independence in 1947. This paper explores the various aspects of India's foreign policy, including its objectives, principles, and strategies, and examines the factors that have shaped and influenced its trajectory over the years. The analysis encompasses India's bilateral relations with major powers and neighboring countries, its participation in regional and global organizations, and its engagement in key geopolitical issues. Furthermore, this study delves into India's evolving stance on critical areas such as trade, security, energy, climate change, and diplomacy, highlighting the country's pursuit of its national interests while fostering cooperation and maintaining a balanced approach. Additionally, the paper discusses the challenges and opportunities India faces in its foreign policy endeavors and evaluates the implications of its choices for regional and global dynamics. Ultimately, this comprehensive exploration aims to provide insights into the intricacies of India's foreign policy, contributing to a deeper understanding of its role in the evolving global order.

KEYWORDS:

Global Relations, National Interests, Regional Cooperation, Security, Strategy, Trade Relations.

INTRODUCTION

A nation's foreign policy, often known as its foreign relations policy, consists of self-interested measures taken by the state to safeguard its interests at home and accomplish its objectives abroad. These methods are strategically used while communicating with foreign nations. The globe is becoming more globalized or networked. We are no longer just a small group of distinct states. We depend on one another economically and militarily. States may need to cooperate with non-state entities in order to maximize the advantages of multilateral international cooperation as a result of the rising degree of globalization and transnational activity. Foreign policies are developed by the governments of different nations utilizing high-level decision-making procedures because national interest is of utmost importance. It matters a lot how the rest of the world sees one state. Military action or economic sanctions are often used in conjunction with harsh foreign policy. The difficulties of dealing with other nations may cause some nations to become isolationist. However, isolationism in foreign policy cannot be entirely avoided [1], [2].

India's foreign policy is fundamentally derived from the liberation struggle. While battling for independence, the freedom fighters were also active in other vital causes. The principles that arose at that time remain valid now. India's foreign policy is largely concerned with maintaining friendly ties, ensuring that all nations are treated equally, emphasizing the ideals of non-alignment, and conducting international dealings fairly. Therefore, a foreign policy is nothing more than a policy that directs international relations. Foreign policy is crucial for understanding how other governments behave. A foreign policy has a number of goals. Additionally, there are certain objectives that must be accomplished via foreign policy. You

will learn about the idea of foreign policy in this unit, along with its definition, goals, and numerous techniques. The section will also cover the development of Indian foreign policy as well as its local and international drivers.

Meaning And Objectives of Foreign Policy

There have been several scholarly discussions over what foreign policy means. It is, in plain and simple words, the relationship between nations on all matters of international importance, such as disarmament, peace, climate change, decolonization, justice, etc. In more precise terms, foreign policy refers to a nation's strategy for pursuing its national interests in international affairs, such as by accepting or rejecting treaties like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or by vying for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). A state seeks to influence other states' behavior via its foreign policy. A state's and its statesmen's general guiding principle in this process is the national interest. Initially, it was thought that a nation's foreign policy developed only from considerations of national interest and that interactions with other nations were unrelated to any other interests. Different people have different ideas on what national interest is. The extreme idealists describe national interest with some universal moral aim, such as perpetual peace or human fraternity, whereas the extreme realists specify national interest with some kind of national power. A statesman, however, always looks for a notion that views security, domestic progress, and global order as elements of national interest. In the context of specific nations, in particular, the national interests of one nation may differ from those of another nation depending on the social and economic climate of that nation. A wealthy or developed nation would aim to maintain its current condition and make additional improvements. In the event of a poor or developing nation, the national interest would be safeguarded with regard to its political autonomy and desire to quicken economic growth in order to raise the quality of living of its citizens in the age of globalization [3], [4].

It must be kept in mind that it is now extremely difficult to separate a country's national interests from its geopolitical or geostrategic position and the surrounding international environment in the age of globalization. Therefore, a country's foreign policy is more than just the sum of its foreign policies. It also encompasses its commitment, its present interests and ambitions, as well as the moral ideals it upholds. As a result, both internal and international issues influence India's foreign policy. Some of these variables are dynamic and change over time, while others are fundamental and have a long-term effect or influence on foreign policy. As a result, there is often continuity and change among these aspects while a nation is deciding on its foreign policy. It is quite fascinating to see how a nation's foreign policy develops through time to take on its current complicated shape. It is a continuous process where multiple components interact with one another in diverse contexts and ways.

No state can escape becoming involved in international affairs nowadays, it might be stated. If it is based on certain established guidelines, this engagement may undoubtedly be enhanced and systematized. This gives rise to a sound motivation for the creation of foreign policy. Once again, the word foreign policy implies a higher level of logic and a methodical planning process leading to a clear and defined purpose. It is a reasonable reaction to the external circumstances, which are real and properly recognized. Even if there are regional and global restrictions on any such close-knit planning, efforts are made and will continue to be made in that direction. The logical explanation of international behaviors relies heavily on foreign policy. Without comprehending state foreign policy, it is difficult to comprehend interstate relations. Therefore, one of the most crucial components of studying international politics is the study of foreign policy [5], [6].

The external environment of a nation is the subject of foreign policy. It reflects the content of a state's international affairs. In order to analyse a state's foreign policy, one needs to look at how they really behave rather than just their stated goals or ambitions. Its goal is to have an impact on things that happen outside of the state. Each state's actions have an impact on those of other states. Every state strives to gain the most from the acts of other nations in order to further its own national interests. Therefore, changing other governments' behavior to one's advantage is the main goal of foreign policy. To decide on certain objectives and work to control others' behavior in order to attain them is what is meant by the term foreign policy. Power may assist in achieving these objectives. Therefore, power and national interest are the most crucial elements of a foreign strategy. All states must act in a certain way towards one another because they have some kind of relationship. Therefore, one of the most crucial functions of contemporary governments is the formulation of their foreign policy. The actions of nations abroad are referred to as foreign policy.

Theoretical Aspects of International Politics author and professor Mahendra Kumar says that foreign policy has an insufficient and flawed definition. It may not always be desirable for other governments or nations to alter their behaviours. Occasionally, it could be a good idea to make sure that other people continue to act in the same way. It could be necessary to change certain aspects of one's behavior in the future. The goal of foreign policy should be to regulate and not only to modify the behavior of other governments, according to Prof. Mahendra Kumar. Regulation refers to shaping other governments' actions in a way that best serves one's own interests. During the Cold War, the superpowers the United States and the former Soviet Union tried to influence other nations' behavior in order to win over the largest possible number of bloc members, while India strove to control the behavior of the largest possible number of nations in order to forge a powerful Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). To alter the course of events in its favor, the US contained communist policy. Attempts by the United States to get India to ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) were likewise fruitless. By the system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other states and for adjusting their own activities to the international environment, George Modelski defines foreign policy.

Joseph Frankel's Definition of National Interest

The foundational idea of foreign policy is national interest. In essence, it represents the whole of all national values, which may be defined as those that apply to both the country and the state. National interest may be used to explain or defend positions in political debates, as well as to operationally apply to the actual policies and programmes being pursued. It can also be used to express the goals of the state. Along with differing views on the nature of the national interest, these uncertainties often contribute to the ongoing debates concerning foreign policy. Modelski asserts once again that the main goal of foreign policy should be to shed light on the means by which states seek to alter, and are successful in altering, the behavior of other states. 'A well-rounded, comprehensive strategy, founded on knowledge and experience, for conducting the business of government with the rest of the world,' according to Hugh Gibson, is how foreign policy is described. It aims to advance and defend the interests of the country. Foreign policy is an interaction between forces originating outside the country's border and those working within them, claims North edge.

A methodical declaration of well-chosen national interests is how Hartman describes foreign policy. Therefore, each definition emphasizes how states should work to control their own behavior and, if feasible, to alter or regulate the behavior of other nations in order to further their own national interests [7], [8]. According to C. C. Rodee, a state's behaviour pattern while negotiating with other governments to safeguard or advance its vital interests is shaped by a set

of principles that are developed and put into practise as foreign policy. According to Crab Jr.'s theory, decision-makers in charge of foreign policy choose which national objectives to pursue and how to do so. Foreign policy is the relationship of the goals and the means. Foreign policies are synthesized of the aims, national interests, and methods, power, and capabilities of nations-states, according to Coulombs and Wolfes. Examining the definitions of national interest and power two concepts that, as was already established, are crucial components of foreign policy will be essential to comprehend this definition. In order to accomplish particular aims, foreign policy must be decided upon, and attempts must be made to control other people's behavior. With the aid of power, the objectives are attempted to be accomplished.

As we've seen, foreign policy is concerned with both transformation and the status quo. There is still another one. Feliks Gross noted that even the choice to have no contacts with a state is seen as foreign policy. Each state must choose the level of engagement in its interactions with other nations that would best serve its interests. India made the clear foreign policy choice in 1949 to have no contacts with the racist government of South Africa. Similar to this, the United States' choice to delay recognizing the Soviet Union following the Bolshevik Revolution until 1934 was plainly a reflection of USSR policy. Foreign policy might be either beneficial or detrimental. When it strives to regulate the conduct of other states by altering those behaviors, it is positive. when it wants to do so by refraining from altering that behaviors, it is negative. We must thus draw the conclusion that each state chooses a set of principles to govern its interactions with other states.

The relationship between national goals and the means (power) to pursue them is the foundation of these concepts. The formulation of foreign policy, in Bandyopadhyay's opinion, is essentially an exercise in the choice of ends and means on the part of a nation-state in an international setting, indeed, policymakers have a crucial role in determining foreign policy. The foreign minister, who directs the officials, sets the objectives of foreign policy, and establishes the guiding principles, is largely responsible for this. The media and the general public both play significant roles in today's world. According to Modelski, input refers to the actions that come from the community and output refers to the choices made by policymakers [8], [9]. As stated by the philosophy of national interest, Prof. Mahendra Kumar defines foreign policy as a thought-out course of action for achieving objectives in foreign relations. Additionally, he lists foreign policy as follows:

- a) The policy-makers.
- b) Interests and objectives.
- c) Principles of foreign policy.
- d) Means of foreign policy.

Goals of Foreign Policy

National interest is a good way to summarise the goals of foreign policy. National interest, however, might imply many different things. The national interest is what foreign policy decision-makers claim it to be, to quote Paul Seabury. The fundamental elements of each state's national interest are security, national growth, and global peace. In other words, it covers issues like defence against aggression, raising the level of life, and preserving circumstances for both national and global stability. However, Holsti has substituted the idea of objectives, which is essentially an image of a future state of affairs and future set of conditions that governments through individual policy-makers aspire to bring about by exercising influence abroad and by changing or sustaining the behaviour of other states, in order to avoid any ambiguity and

confusion.

Objectives, however, can only be determined from national interest. Compared to hobbies, goals are more focused. As a result, the benefits of accommodating the interests of other nations influence aims. Therefore, when a specific national interest becomes crucial for a state to pursue, an aim is created. According to George Modelski, goals or purposes may include both objectives and interests. The actions of any state in relation to certain norms or principles indicate more or less formally articulated behavioural patterns that direct governmental activity or policy. These beliefs collectively made up the foreign policy worldview. Every course of action and policy involves the use of means. Therefore, a foreign policy is a well-considered plan of action for accomplishing goals in international relations as determined by the ideology of national interest. There are several pairs of competing aims or objectives that make up the objectives of foreign policy. For instance, Arnold Wolfers has explained the distinction between possession goals and milieu goals. In the case of the former, it refers to the objectives that a country's foreign policy pursues in order to protect its holdings, such as a region of land or membership in particular international organizations. In the latter, it refers to the objectives that countries pursue in order to create beneficial circumstances outside of their own borders. Peacekeeping successes, the advancement of international law, and the expansion of international organizations may all be seen as milieu goals. In actuality, milieu objectives could just serve as a vehicle for pursuing possession goals.

As a result, certain goals may be direct national goals, such as maintaining national security and independence, while others may be indirect goals that are primarily beneficial to the populace. Therefore, another set of opposing aims can be those that are ideological or revolutionary and those that are conventional. The following three categories may be used to further categorise foreign policy goals:

- a) **Core values and interests:** The core values and interests are the types of goals for which more people are willing to make ultimate sacrifices. The existence of a state is related to them. They are:
 - i. Self-preservation, defense of strategically vital areas, ethnic, religious or linguistic unity and protection of cultural and political institutions and beliefs and values
 - ii. Economic development and prosperity can lead to the adoption of a course of policy that ignores the core values and interest and yet survive
- b) **Middle range objectives:** Middle range objectives include:
 - i. For the majority of governments, boosting social welfare requires trade, foreign assistance, access to communication infrastructure, supply sources, and international markets.
 - ii. Increasing state prestige through increased military power, the provision of aid to other countries, and diplomatic events that include displays and status symbols like the development of nuclear weapons, space exploration, various forms of imperialism or self-extension, including the establishment of colonies, satellites, and spheres of influence. It is also common to promote the socio-economic and political ideals of a state overseas via ideological self-extension in many different ways.
 - iii. Universal long-term goals: The final political or ideological structure of the international system is the subject of these plans, dreams, visions, and grand

schemes. The international system will be restructured as a result of these goals. Some examples of long-term goals include Hitler's idea of the Thousand Year Reich, the European New Order, Japan's vision of a Greater East Asia, the World Soviet Federation proposed by the Soviet Union, the American dream of securing a safe haven for democracy, and De Gaulle's Federation of Fatherlands.

It, however, should be noted here that the first and second categories of objectives require immediate pursuit, but the third category goals are meant for long-term pursuit.

Foreign Policy Orientation

The general policies, strategies and obligations of a state are termed as orientation. Generally, the foreign policy can be observed to have three types of orientation:

- a) Isolation and non-involvement, adopted by the US until the Second World War under the influence of the Monroe Doctrine.
- b) Non-alignment, adopted by most of the Third World countries, particularly India.
- c) Coalition making or alliances, adopted by the states having common economic problems and common enemies, e.g., NATO, CENTO, WTO, OAS, OAU, EU, ASEAN, SAARC, etc.

Approaches To the Study of India's Foreign Policy

The study of international behaviour in the context of states is known as international relations. Analysis of how states operate and interact with one another is at the heart of this research. International behaviour of governments really reflects the goals and strategies they use when dealing with the outside world. These objectives, strategies, and tactics make up a state's whole foreign policy. As a result, the study of foreign policy has inevitably become the foundation of international relations worldwide. The majority of research on foreign policy have not compared the foreign policies of other governments. They have focused on developing a more comprehensive grasp of the varied methods employed by different countries to carry out their foreign policy. Many academics have attempted to investigate how these processes affect the final results. Realists often reject these methods because they are at odds with the idea of a single state actor that underlies realism.

The methods used to examine foreign affairs have varied throughout time. Professors Black and Thompson claim that throughout a large portion of this study's history, historical, juridical, and descriptive methodologies have prevailed. The basic stages of the study of foreign policy and diplomatic history have been formed. It has always been the most conventional strategy. Black and Thompson made an attempt to accurately, precisely, and with proper consideration for the important events, rebuild the diplomacy of a certain time period. It didn't result in the creation of any overarching laws, theories, or conceptual frameworks. The goal was to conduct a thorough and organised analysis of certain powers—mostly great powers—at a specific moment in time. By making a connection to the past, it aimed to illuminate the present.

Self-Instructional Material

The legalistic method, in contrast to the historical approach, is to investigate the legal foundation and context of international relations. It is widely accepted and has as its main interest the recent past. This strategy has guided a thorough investigation of international law. Additionally, it examines governmental internal issues as well as state interactions on the outside, including constitutional clauses, legislation, treaties, and regulations. This strategy has also been used to lead an examination of methods and processes for enhancing the stability of

the global order.

The general approach is another name for the descriptive method. The foreign policy of certain powers is described in considerable depth via the descriptive method. This policy may sometimes be discussed in the context of certain institutions or recent occurrences. However, it is clear that the choice is affected in part by the analyst's predisposition and personal interests, as well as in part by the represented nation. This research has at times taken the lead in efforts to develop hypotheses and a conceptual framework. However, the two most significant methods have been roughly categorised as ideological and analytical. The academics Thompson and Macridis contend that these two fundamental schools of thinking have been in direct competition with one another in Western thought at least since the French Revolution. The ideological strategy is the most popular. It examines how the country's foreign policy reflects dominant political, social, and religious viewpoints. This method is used to categorise foreign policy as democratic or authoritarian, libertarian or socialist, and peaceful or combative. All governments utilise ideological rationale to support their policies. Ideological analysis of foreign policy is ideally necessary and beneficial. According to this perspective, a foreign policy is praised or berated based on how well it comports with the stated philosophy.

Ideology is not necessarily a reliable barometer of a state's behaviour in international affairs. It is often used as a disguise to forward other agendas. Ideology has always won out when there has been a confrontation between it and the interests of the country. This shared experience may be used to explain all variations in foreign policy across all nations. In reality, no state has ever been able to remain ideologically and politically consistent throughout the course of its history. Examples of this include conflicts between the United States' declared anti-imperialism and its particular claim to hemispheric influence in Latin America, China's anti-imperialism and its almost religious tolerance of the Portuguese enclave in Macao, the Soviet Union's principle of territorial integrity with the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, the British pocket of Hong Kong, and India's peaceful approach with the liberation of Goa. In truth, the majority of governments' foreign policy show a unity that transcends personal philosophies or convictions. Therefore, any study of foreign policy that just considers ideologies is certain to be limited and ultimately inaccurate. It will never be feasible to fully convey the truth of the situation, regardless of the expense [10], [11].

As a direct response to the ideological approach, the analytical approach has emerged. It aims to address the shortcomings of the latter and provide a genuine image of the circumstance. It has been distinct from others not just in how it approaches issues, but also in how it approaches the topic of international politics in general. Consequently, the analytical technique has been established based on this notion. Policy rests on multiple determinants, including the state's historic tradition, geographical location, national interest and purposes, and security needs, say academicians Kenneth W. Thompson and Roy C. Macridis. Therefore, we may argue that studying foreign policy necessitates taking into consideration and analysing a wide range of elements. It asserts that every state has certain ongoing commitments or interests. These interests, which predominate over ideology in a state's foreign policy, were fairly well-known even in the 18th and 19th centuries. These are set in a hierarchy of larger and lesser interests, but they are permanent. others interests are protected at any costs, while others are protected only under the right situations and others may never be protected at all. These methods may now be used to explain a state's national interest. To examine and analyse such interests, the analytical method is specifically created.

The goal of the analytical method is to examine the fundamental influences on foreign policy as well as the many variables that are often taken into account by international policy decision-makers. It takes attention to a number of factors, including the idea of competing interests, the

ability of states to advance their interests, the adoption and implementation of policies, as well as the global context in which those policies interact with one another. This contemporary perspective on history has in particular increased understanding and familiarity with national foreign policy. There are several additional approaches to international politics and foreign policy in addition to the ones just mentioned. The following is discussed:

- i. **The Psychological Approach:** Using a psychological perspective the psychological approach contends that a nation's foreign policy is influenced by its cognition-related component. Cognition is described as the process by which knowledge and understanding are developed in the mind in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. It is the method through which people choose and analyse data from their environment. Important issues are brought into the decision-making process as a result of cognition. Therefore, cognition has an impact on a policymaker's choice. The policy-maker will develop the country's foreign policy based on how he sees and understands the globe. Numerous research from the past demonstrates how policymakers' perceptions and comprehension do, in fact, influence how they make decisions. Understanding the decision-makers' beliefs is important when examining the cognitive approach to foreign policy. A country's foreign policy may stay the same for years, but when the decision-makers change, everyone adds to the formulation of the policy in accordance with his or her knowledge. The psychological strategy contrasts with reason. While some think that policymakers are rational and make all of their choices logically, proponents of the psychological approach have a different view.
- ii. They contend that each policy maker has a unique psychology, and that this psychology influences the choices made while developing policies. Jervis asserts that by highlighting the relevance of the operational environment as a factor in determining foreign policy, irrespective of the psychological environment, one eventually aims to diminish the role of psychological variables in foreign policy. He goes on to claim that if one does not include several levels of analysis in addition to the individual level, foreign policy cannot be properly described. At the individual level, factors such as bureaucratic restrictions, household pressures, and the external environment do affect perception, cognition, and personality. Furthermore, because ideas, perceptions, and ideologies are socially constructed, rather than the work of a single person, it is not particularly pertinent to concentrate just on them. Putting greater emphasis on the social environment in which they function would be more significant.
- iii. **Psycho-analytic Approach:** According to the psychoanalytic perspective, a person's personality is impacted by their experiences as a youngster. Every person has unique objectives, and each person pursues those goals in a unique manner. Individual decision-makers will have different life experiences, intellectual capacities, and decision-making personalities in addition to having different values and views. Many academics who research individual psychology believe that it has an impact on a person's capacity for making decisions. For instance, Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States of America, received a lot of flak for his foreign policy. Clinton's willingness to compromise was a standout quality. According to Clinton, his upbringing with an abusive, intoxicated stepfather made him a peacemaker, always trying to minimize the disruption.
- iv. **Decision Making Approach:** This strategy and theory are relevant to both the broader topic of international relations and the subfield of foreign policy analysis.

By insisting that the explanatory focus point must be the foreign policy decision-makers themselves and not wider structural or systematic phenomena, foreign policy analysis differs from other theoretical methods in international relations. The analyst is interested in all explanatory factors to the degree that they have an impact on the decision-making process, from macro to micro. Thus, of all international relations subfields, foreign policy analysis is the most fundamentally integrative theoretical endeavor. The primary research agenda of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) focuses on how personality traits, meaning perception and construction, organizational processes, domestic politics, group dynamics, bureaucratic politics, culture, and system structure play a significant role in determining foreign policy. Richard Snyder together with his associates

DISCUSSION

India's foreign policy has been essential in determining the nation's standing and influence on the world stage. India has adopted a complex foreign policy strategy throughout the years that is defined by its goals, guiding concepts, and tactics. Protecting and advancing India's national interests, which include a broad variety of topics including economic progress, security, regional stability, and international acclaim, is one of the country's main foreign policy goals. In order to retain its strategic independence and avoid aligning with any one power bloc, India has persistently emphasised the concepts of non-alignment, independence, and sovereignty in its international dealings. India's foreign policy includes a substantial amount of bilateral connections. India has worked to establish and bolster diplomatic connections with nations including the United States, Russia, China, and those in the European Union. These interactions have changed over time as a result of shifting global dynamics and India's rising regional power status. In addition, given the significance of regional stability and collaboration, India has given priority to its ties with its neighbours.

Through programmes like the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), efforts have been made to improve economic integration, settle protracted disputes, and promote intercultural exchanges. In addition, an important component of India's foreign policy has been its participation in regional and international organisations. India actively participates in establishing international norms, addressing global challenges, and promoting the interests of developing countries as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and a member of the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organisation (WTO), and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). A further indication of India's commitment to developing regional cooperation and solving common issues like marine security and commercial connectivity is the country's growing influence in regional organisations like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Economic, security, energy, climate change, and cultural diplomacy are just a few of the strategic factors that influence India's foreign policy. As India looks to strengthen its commercial and investment ties with nations throughout the world, economic diplomacy has become more important. India has collaborated with other countries that share its concerns about security in areas including counterterrorism, maritime security, and defence cooperation. India has actively participated in international talks and measures to solve environmental concerns while ensuring sustainable development as climate change has emerged as a key issue. However, there are issues and problems with India's foreign policy as well. It takes a deliberate approach to maintain a balance in its ties with major nations, particularly in light of the rivalry and rivalries that are intensifying. Managing complicated relationships with

neighbours provides continual difficulties, especially with those nations with whom India has border conflicts or historical hostilities. In addition, India's foreign policy choices must take into account the shifting geopolitical environment, which includes regional wars, power transitions, and new global trends.

CONCLUSION

India's position and impact on the world stage have been significantly shaped by its foreign policy. India has throughout the years followed a comprehensive and dynamic strategy under the direction of its national interests, values, and strategic concerns. India's interactions with major powers, nearby nations, and regional and international organisations have been primarily motivated by the goals of defending and advancing national interests. India has worked to achieve a balance in its connections, improve economic integration, solve security issues, participate actively in setting global standards, and tackle major global problems via its foreign policy. India's foreign policy has shown a dedication to ideas like non-alignment, independence, and sovereignty, giving the nation strategic autonomy and the freedom to pursue its goals in a world that is changing quickly. India's focus on regional cooperation, especially via organizations like SAARC and BIMSTEC, demonstrates how important stability and cooperation in its near neighborhood are.

For India's foreign policy, the changing geopolitical environment offers both possibilities and difficulties. India, a growing global force, must negotiate the difficulties of keeping cordial relations with other nations while defending its own strategic interests. In addition, diplomatic skill and persistent efforts will be needed to handle regional problems and long-standing disagreements with neighboring nations. In order to ensure a sustainable and equitable growth path, India's foreign policy initiatives would also need to address urgent concerns like climate change, energy security, and economic integration. India's connection with the rest of the world is significantly shaped by its foreign policy. India seeks to advance its national interests, promote regional cooperation, and contribute to world peace, stability, and prosperity by following a balanced, practical, and principled strategy. India's foreign policy choices will continue to be influenced by the possibilities and complexity of the global environment, highlighting the significance of flexibility, strategic vision, and persistent diplomatic efforts in enhancing India's position as a significant participant in world affairs.

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CHAPTER 2

AN OVERVIEW OF THE APPROACHES, DETERMINANTS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

India's foreign policy is essential in determining how it interacts with other countries and how it is positioned in the world. This essay tries to investigate the many theories, causes, and influences that have shaped and still impact India's foreign policy. This book offers a thorough overview of the development of India's foreign policy by drawing on considerable research and analysis of academic literature, official documents, and historical records. The first section of the essay looks at the historical background and guiding concepts that established India's foreign policy. It explores the non-alignment movement, which during the Cold War period influenced India's stance on international affairs. It also examines the changes in India's foreign policy stance after the end of the Cold War. India's foreign policy factors are examined from a variety of angles, including political, economic, and security aspects. The study looks at how India's foreign policy is impacted by internal politics, regional dynamics, and global power systems. It also evaluates how India's demographic dividend, economic reforms, and technology breakthroughs have affected the way the country decides on its foreign policy.

KEYWORDS:

International Relationships, Non-alignment Movement, Political Considerations, Regional Dynamics, Strategic Partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

These are crucial, according to Henry Bruck and Burton Sapin, one of the FPA's founders, since they have an effect on the only real players in international affairs the human decision-makers. For the study of the processes involved in formulating policies, they decide to concentrate on decision-making. The foundation of decision-making analysis is the question of how and why national actors behave in the ways that they do. This method concentrates investigation on those individuals who are considered decision-makers and on the state as a whole. The activities of decision-makers may be interpreted as the actions of the state. The decision-maker perceives the environment in which foreign policy choices are made. The environment is seen as having both internal and exterior components. Personalities, positions, governmental structures within which the decision-maker operates, organizations inside the decisional units, physical and technical circumstances, fundamental beliefs and aims, and numerous societal influences are all included in the internal context. The whole condition of the international system as it exists at a given moment is included in the external context. According to James Robin, the structure and internal workings of the legislative branch establish the true substance of a foreign policy. Such studies are useful, nevertheless, when the legislature and the general public are involved in the creation of a foreign policy [1], [2].

Let's focus on the actual processes involved in comprehending foreign policy. Using the policy stances of different actors as the dependent variable, one may follow how a certain viewpoint evolves over time to become dominant within a decision-making group. One may step back and consider how such policy attitudes emerge from fundamental cognitive processes like perceptions, issue representation, and meaning creation. Another step backward in society

would be necessary to address the question of how the decision-making group originally forms, as well as how group structures and procedures evolve through time. The nation-state's role conceptions as well as those of the many organizations and people that make up the nation-state might likewise be the subject of study.

Foreign policy strategies often fall into one of two broad categories: idealist or realism. The idealist method, on the other hand, is based on principles and norms and tends to be collaborative in character. The realist approach, on the other hand, is based on state security, advances its national interest by pragmatic and reasonable ways, and may be security-oriented. Iran's foreign policy may therefore be described as realist idealism, and as it shows unhappiness with the current global order, it can also be described as reformist. The notion of power is emphasized in realist foreign policy. It may be contrasted with the atomic energy in physics or the economic worth of silver. According to Morgenthau, the objectives of foreign policy require politicians to conceal their immediate objective, i.e., gaining power, by using ideology. For realists, the most crucial factor in determining foreign policy is the fact that the international system is basically anarchic.

Realists hold that all national foreign policies adhere to the fundamental guidelines established by the anarchic international system and that scholars should look into how the structure of the international system and the relative power of states affect foreign policy outcomes. Calculations of national interest are self-evident and may be reached logically by carefully examining the material circumstances of nations as well as the specifics of a certain foreign policy conundrum they are facing. The balance of power formulation from classical realism offers a simple but powerful instrument for examining state behavior in international relations [3], [4]. The idealist approach to foreign policy sees power politics as a fleeting moment in history and paints an image of a future international society based on a reform of the international system, free from power politics, immorality, and violence. The goal of this strategy is to improve the world via international cooperation and education. This strategy is fairly ancient and has traces of it in both the French Revolution of 1789 and the Declaration of the American War of Independence from 1776. It envisioned a future without tyranny, injustice, or conflict. The employment of reason, education, and science would usher in a new era of perpetual advancement in human wellbeing.

Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

National interests are of various kinds. Thomas W. Robinson classifies national interest into the following six categories:

- a) Primary interests.
- b) Secondary interests.
- c) Permanent interests.
- d) Variable interests.
- e) General interests.
- f) Specific interests.

Robinson also refers to three other types which are collectively called international interest. A state also needs to promote its international interest. In order to do so, a state may take coercive measures, make alliances or diplomatic negotiations.

Factors Essential in the Making of Foreign Policy

A foreign policy's development is a dynamic process. Typically, a change in administration does not signify a change in a state's core foreign policy, while a radical shift in the political system might bring about significant changes in a state. Because a state's foreign policy is influenced by a multitude of variables, many of which are static or unaltered, it often doesn't change. Although certain criteria may be altered, their effect or impact on a nation's foreign policy is often secondary. A nation's foreign policy is composed of numerous forces and factors. They all interact and affect foreign policy in one way or another. They range from being permanent to being transient, from being visible to being mysterious [5], [6]. A country must take into account a few fundamental aspects of life while forming its foreign policy. This context consists of the following:

- a. Geo-strategic (geographic strategic) situations.
- b. Population potential.
- c. Economic endowments.
- d. Ideological environment.

Fundamentally, foreign policy has its roots in the unique historical background, political institutions, traditions, economic needs, power factors, aspirations, peculiar geographical circumstances, and basic set of values held by a nation, write Norman Judson Padelford and George Arthur Lincoln in their book *The Dynamics of International Politics. The Making of India's Foreign Policy* author J. Bandopadhyay claims that geography, economic growth, political traditions, internal and international environments, military might, and national character are the primary factors of foreign policy. There are so many factors that affect a nation's foreign policy that they can't all be included here. Some of them, nevertheless, are covered in this section.

i. Historical Factors

States' borders are established by history, and this heritage also provides the principles guiding current foreign policy. It establishes a society's dominant tradition and self-image, and as a result, the unique national style. The Russian addiction to secrecy, the French obsession with security, honour, and glory, and the American habit of seeing global challenges as moral dilemmas all have clear and distinct historical origins. Such a national style has always been reflected in the development and implementation of foreign policy. A nation's historical and cultural traditions have a significant impact on its foreign policy. Because all facets of society support it and share the same memories and ideals, a nation with a united common culture and historical experience can conduct a successful foreign policy. On the other hand, a nation with a fractured culture and history cannot conduct an equally successful foreign policy. French historian Duroselle has said of France in particular, France is far more a product of history than a geographic entity.

The French desire for a natural border as well as security from Germany has been shaped by history. One of the most significant factors in the formation of Chinese foreign policy has been national history. Every state has experienced it. Thus, British imperialism in India and our fight for independence from colonialism and imperialism have had a direct influence on India's foreign policy. India's decision to fully support the liberation movements in Afro-Asian nations and the battle against racial discrimination is a result of our past [7], [8].

ii. Population

Foreign policy is significantly influenced by population. The size, makeup, and distribution of a nation's population influence its political, military, and economic aspects of foreign policy. However, a country's population size alone is not a good indicator of how powerful its economy and military are.

The strength of a nation is determined by its level of social integration, degree of political stability, and level of industrialization. However, population trends are a crucial factor to take into account. Naturally, nations with large birth rates, such as China and India, may draw from a pool of labor. Because of the population decline in these nations, England and France have experienced setbacks both quantitatively and qualitatively. It is common knowledge that a nation's power will increase with population. The population of a country affects its values, way of life, and even its aspirations in terms of living standards. Even superpowers like the US and Russia have shown respect for this element. In addition to population size, the quality of the population as shown by its health, education, technological know-how, and national character is a determinant in foreign policy. The quality of the people ultimately dictates the quality of the political system, the public sector, and even leadership.

iii. Factor of Quality Government

One of the major influences on the foreign policy of a state is the quality of government and leadership. Government converts a potential power into actual power. Its popularity efficiently organizes the public administration. Even the quality of civil servants is, in the long run, a determinant of foreign policy. Every single state's foreign policy is an integral part of its peculiar system of government.

iv. Factor of Economic Development

The economic health of a specific state also serves as the foundation for many foreign policy considerations. Every country in the world lacks economic independence. Even the United States depends heavily on international commerce to flourish economically. This reciprocal interconnectedness of the economies of nations is the root cause of the majority of economic issues. An industrial state like England must purchase industrial goods like tractors, fabric, and vehicles from an agricultural state, particularly like Argentina, in exchange for the sale of its livestock, wheat, and wool to that state. Because of this interconnection, there is global economic activity, which is reflected in trade agreements, taxes, import restrictions, and other financial arrangements. States do not engage in economic specialization of production or free exchange of products. Instead, they adhere to the economic self-sufficiency practice, which negatively affects international economic connections. This mis adjustment causes economic stress throughout the globe, which may sometimes manifest as political and military action. Natural resources like uranium, rubber, coal, and other goods necessary for conflict are not uniformly distributed across all the states.

Uneven aptitude to use the resources at hand makes these kinds of disparities even more obvious. Therefore, governments design their foreign policy in a manner that ensures the availability of war supplies and a favourable balance in their commerce. Facilities and protection for foreign investments are also necessary for international economic activity. Because they have assets in this region's oil, Britain and the United States are both increasingly interested in the Middle East. The ability of a state to address these economic issues is reflected in its foreign policy. Again, an industrial country is expected to have a higher gross national product (GNP) and can devote greater funds for external purposes, such as economic aid programmes, military ventures, and extensive diplomatic commitments. Most states have

increased their power and prestige by gaining control over economic resources. Conversely, industrially backward nations are unable to actively participate in international affairs. They cannot benefit from the technical advance outside since the nation lacks scientists, engineers, and other experts [7], [8].

v. Factor of Natural Resources

This is yet another crucial component of a state's foreign strategy. Food, minerals, metals, and water resources are all important components of national strength and, by extension, foreign policy. The value of a nation is undoubtedly increased by the abundance of these resources. For instance, the existence of petroleum has highlighted the significance of West Asian nations on the global stage. 80 percent of the oil supply in West Europe come from these nations. Energy and food are both necessary. If not accessible locally, they must be obtained via international collaboration. A nation's capacity to conduct international affairs will always be boosted by the availability of strategic and vital raw commodities. Their absence will therefore lower a nation's standing abroad.

vi. Factor of Industrial Development

An important factor in defining a state's foreign policy is industrial growth. The standard for classifying nations as advanced, undeveloped, or developing has previously been presented. The majority of the industrial superpowers, including the US, Russia, UK, and Japan, have a strong standing. Such states also have the authority to utilize foreign assistance as a novel tool of foreign policy. The industrially underdeveloped and emerging nations, however, are destined to play a largely ineffectual role in world affairs. Their policy options are undoubtedly constrained by this deficit, which provides little room for active initiative and leadership.

vii. Ideological Factor

A country's ideology, which upholds certain core views about how power is distributed in society, has a significant impact on its foreign policy. Politicians or political leaders develop the nation's foreign policy in their thinking. Though they are influenced by custom and history, these political leaders' opinions and actions are how policy is represented. There has been much discussion on whether ideology alone may be considered a crucial national interest. Sometimes a leader may use ideology as a convenient way to explain his actions or policies in terms that his subjects can understand. But sometimes, at other times, a country goes to war just to persuade others to adopt its philosophy. Ideology by itself, however, is not a policy objective for expressing the true perspective on this issue. It is a known truth that countries with opposing beliefs may coexist peacefully for a while. However, there is also opposing documentation accessible. The former Soviet Union's foreign policy cannot be properly understood if we do not take into account 'global revolution' as one of its goals. The spread of communism was a legitimate objective. Since 1945, the goal of Russian empowerment has been the establishment of communism as well as its political hegemony. However, it is important to avoid exacerbating the role of ideology in the elements of foreign policy. They are only ever employed to mask the true nature of a situation or the true intentions of ambitious leaders.

viii. Factor of Military Strength or Capacity

A nation's foreign policy is directly impacted by its military might or capability. Only governments or countries with robust militaries have taken an aggressive stance. Making a successful and aggressive foreign policy requires having huge, strong-armed forces that are equipped with cutting-edge military technology. It is the last component of a state's power status and, as a result, of its capacity to contribute significantly to international affairs. Even in

peaceful discussions, a state with a weak military apparatus will often be at a disadvantage. A weak state or country would typically aim to minimize its disadvantages whereas a militarily superior state or nation would try to adopt a bold program to maximize rewards.

ix. Geographic Strategic (geo-strategic) Factor

The formulation of a foreign policy must take geo-strategy into consideration. A sort of foreign policy known as geo- strategy, a branch of geo-politics, is primarily influenced by geographical variables that limit or have an impact on political and military preparation. The goal of geo-strategy is to match the means to the aim, as it is with all other forms of strategies. Matching a nation's resources, whether abundant or scarce, with its geopolitical goal—which may be local, regional, or global in this situation. Geopolitics and strategy are interwoven, just as geopolitics and nationhood are, or, as Grey and Solan put it, geography is the mother of strategy. Pacts may be broken, treaties may be unilaterally renounced, but geography keeps its victim fast, as the saying goes. Anything may be escaped by a country, but not geographic limitations. The elements of size, terrain, form, and climate are significant in a geographical position.

A wide area, with a homogeneous environment that encourages physical vitality and is preferable either temperate or tropical highland, is needed to maintain a big population. It should have a terrain with natural defensive barriers like mountains, woods, marshes, rivers, deserts, and seas that provides limits. It should be simple to defend and have a compact form rather than being extended or fragmented as Pakistan was till 1971. It should also have some of the essential power capabilities to support an autonomous foreign policy. The topography and terrain were seen as a major advantage in sustaining national security before the advent of modern military and equipment. Because of its position halfway between the Atlantic and Pacific seas, America was able to practise isolationism. The Himalayan Mountain range shielded India, the Alps acted as a protective barrier between France and Italy, and the immense African deserts similarly shielded Egypt for ages [9], [10].

The factors of form, mass, and geographic configurations have shaped the nature of foreign policy. In the past, infantry was highly reliant on landlocked nations, while naval forces were reliant on governments with long coasts. The expanding invading armies have often been held back by the strong landmasses of China and Russia. The significance of a country's place in the globe is influenced by its access to abundant resources like food and minerals, its level of industrialization, and its proximity to important maritime trade routes and global economic hubs. The geo-strategic aspects of foreign policy, however, may be said to have been established considerably earlier from a conventional standpoint than the demonstration of the value of air power made possible by the development of nuclear weapons. In light of recent technical advancements, this viewpoint seems to be undermined by heavy rhetorical and amplification. We no longer subscribe to claims that a country's location determines the main factors influencing its foreign policy, such as England was destined by geography to command the seas or sea routes have beckoned the Japanese abroad. Given the development of technology and science, this geographic influence on political phenomena has fallen prey to the law of diminishing returns.

We cannot argue that despite air power's revolutionary impact on these geographical traits, many of them will still exist along with the political consequences that follow. Today, air distance and meteorological conditions are far more important for military purposes than land or sea surface distance. Any distance may be travelled in a day. Heavy bombers can round the globe in 45 hours. The outdated ideas of national security have been completely transformed by atomic, hydrogen, and cobalt bombs. Today, no nation on earth can resist an assault. Nuclear missiles are completely invulnerable to defense.

x. Factor of Public Opinion

Public opinion is becoming a significant determinant of foreign policy. Foreign policy is no longer developed in a private office. Since it is developed in the open, public opinion often influences how foreign policy is implemented. The American government's decision to order the withdrawal of American soldiers from South Vietnam was made possible by the political clout of the public opinion in that country. Once again, the Suez crisis and popular sentiment against the British led to the Eden Government's resignation in 1957. For forty years, foreign policy leaders in India refrained from establishing diplomatic connections with Israel out of concern that they would irritate a small minority group.

National Interest as a Determinant of Foreign Policy

The 'central notion' in a foreign policy is the national interest. In actuality, it serves as the foundation for developing foreign policy. National interest, which is the aim, must be understood if foreign policy is the product of the interplay between ends and methods. International politics in fact revolve on national interests. Self-interest is often quoted as not just being acceptable but also a primary driver of national policy. According to Morgenthau, the national interest is indeed the last word in world politics so long as the world is politically organized into nations.

All forms of politics, according to the famous realist thinker who has been referred to as Kautilya's 20th-century successor, are contests for power. No government may take any action that is not in the best interests of the nation. No government, regardless of its principles, can afford to base its foreign policy on anything other than the interests of the country. Before the 20th century, Lord Palmerston said that neither we nor our enemies have eternal allegiance. Our obligation is to uphold these interests since they are everlasting. The degree of amity or hostility between nations does, in fact, alter over time as environmental conditions change and each state works to further its own interests.

The idea is used to explain, assess, justify, or criticise foreign policy on an explanatory and polemical level. We should make an effort to comprehend what is meant by national interest before we deduce anything from these conflicting perspectives. National interest is unquestionably a very nebulous concept. It is a very hazy and ambiguous idea. In the many circumstances in which it is employed, it takes on a variety of meanings. In actuality, there is no consensus on what it really means. The idea of national interest has never been defined objectively or scientifically, in reality. Many authors have attempted to define the phrase, nevertheless. For instance, the authors of *The Dynamics of International Politics*, Norman J. Padelford, George A. Lincoln, and Lee D. Olvey, correctly noted that concept of national interests are centred on core values of the society, which include the welfare of the nation, the security of its political belief, national way of life, territorial integrity, and its self-preservation.

According to Morgenthau, the political traditions and overall cultural circumstances in which a country develops its foreign policy constitute the subject matter of national interest. According to him, a nation-state's primary duty is to defend its physical, political, and cultural identities against invasion by other nation-states. According to one definition, national interest refers to the general and ongoing ends for which a nation acts. According to Bandyopadhyay, each state strives to safeguard its territorial boundaries in order to preserve its political independence and territorial integrity. The methods may differ, but the maintenance of territorial integrity is in the national interest. Spykman has outlined this concept in further detail. According to him, Self-preservation entails preserving a state's authority over its

territory since territory is an essential component of a state, and Self-preservation also entails battling for independence because independence is the very foundation of a state. The maintenance of territorial integrity and political independence is the primary goal of all governments' foreign policies.

DISCUSSION

India's foreign policy strategies and factors have a significant impact on how it engages with the world and sets its diplomatic goals. India has developed a complex strategy that blends pragmatism, non-alignment, and strategic alliances as a growing force in the international sphere. This strategy demonstrates India's goal to retain its strategic independence while interacting actively with several nations and regional blocs. India's foreign policy choices are influenced by a variety of variables, including concerns about national security, economic interests, links to the past and culture, and ideological considerations. India's foreign policy has become more concerned with fostering trade and investment relations, seeking energy security, and strengthening its position in international governance forums as a result of its rising economic might. Additionally, there has been a change in India's strategy for regional integration, notably in South Asia, in favour of improved connectivity, collaboration, and stability in the area. Understanding the methods and factors that shape India's foreign policy is crucial for understanding its place in the changing international order as India's influence on the world stage continues to increase.

When two countries' interests diverge, they either change their positions following talks or adopt a policy of hostility. George Washington, the first US president, emphasized this point and claimed that it is a maxim based on the human experience that no country should be trusted beyond what is required for its own interests, and that no wise leader or politician would dare deviate from it. There's no denying that various authors use the phrase national interest differently. These applications of the idea have been categorised by various authors. The uses of the phrase national interest are categorised as aspirational, operational, explanatory, and polemical by Joseph Frankel in his book, *National Interest*. National interest, on an aspirational level, refers to a vision of the good life and a set of ideal objectives that the country would want to achieve if it were feasible. On a practical level, national interest refers to all of the interests and policies that are really being pursued by a country.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India's foreign policy's methods and factors show how intricate and dynamic its involvement with the world is. India's foreign policy is influenced by a variety of variables, including worries about national security, economic goals, linkages to the past and present, cultural affinities, and ideological considerations. Its strategy, which combines pragmatism, non-alignment, and strategic alliances, enables India to preserve its strategic independence while taking an active role in world events. India's foreign policy, as a growing state, is focused on fostering commerce and investment, achieving energy security, and developing its position in global governance. Furthermore, notably in South Asia, regional cooperation and integration are top concerns. Understanding the motivations and guiding concepts underlying India's foreign policy is essential to understanding how its position in the world is changing as its power grows. India works to advance peace, stability, and growth both locally and internationally by skillfully managing these methods and factors.

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CHAPTER 3

AN ANALYSIS OF INFLUENCE AND INDEPENDENCE: INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

Numerous variables, such as historical legacies, regional dynamics, and changing global conditions, have influenced India's foreign policy. In order to provide insight on the complex interaction between domestic interests and external influences that affect India's decision-making processes, this research explores the impact and independence of India's foreign policy. While admitting the limitations imposed by geopolitical reality and reliance with the international community, the essay addresses India's drive for strategic autonomy and its ambitions to become a significant global actor. The research examines the major factors that influence India's foreign policy, including economic factors, security needs, cultural links, and ideological convictions. It also looks at how India's foreign policy decisions are influenced by domestic politics, public opinion, and changing power dynamics. The research provides insights into how India navigates the altering global order while attempting to protect its national interests and accomplish its strategic goals by looking at its relationships with major countries, regional players, and multilateral organizations. The results help to elucidate India's level of independence in determining its own path in international affairs as well as the degree to which India's foreign policy is impacted by outside variables including power dynamics and economic interests.

KEYWORDS:

Domestic Interests, External Pressures, Global Player, Historical Legacies, Interdependence.

INTRODUCTION

The most important aspect or component of foreign policy is culture. Even historically, India has always had a highly beneficial position in terms of culture. India has cultural ties to South East Asia, Rome, and Iran, among other nations. Its treasures have attracted traders and tourists for many years. Indian customs are still present in certain South East Asian nations. The existence of temples and pagodas in Thailand, Myanmar, and Cambodia, as well as the Angkor Wat Temple, serves as evidence. Sanskrit terms may be found in a number of different languages, including Indonesia's Bahasa. The Buddha travelled to India to preach. In order to study at Indian colleges, Buddhist monks and academics travelled to India with high aspirations. A natural and constructive interchange of ideas took place. Evidently, the effects were favorable, and they continue to be felt throughout Asia today. The fact that India is working with China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore to resurrect the renowned Nalanda University is evidence of the significance that India attaches to its relations with the Asia-Pacific region [1], [2].

The program is a good illustration of how the cultural and relational concerns of five distinct nations may merge. The religious and cultural principles of Islam are said to have been promoted in Singapore and Malaysia by Islamic preachers from India. Additionally, India was among the few nations in the world where Jews were not subject to legal action. India embraced Jews and today maintains a more accommodative foreign policy with Israel as a consequence.

Millions of people all around the world do yoga, one of the most popular and lasting Indian disciplines, not only as a form of physical activity but also as a stress reliever. In actuality, the discipline has spread around the world and is quickly assimilating into Western culture. In the West, Indian food is highly popular. There are many Indian restaurants in nations like the UK where there are many Indian residents. Indian restaurants reportedly employ more people in the UK than the combined workforce of the shipbuilding and iron and steel sectors. In addition, various Western nations have grown to love Indian cuisine. The largest cities in the US and Canada are home to a considerable number of Indian eateries [3], [4].

People across Asia, Europe, Africa, and West Asia adore Indian music and cinema. Hindi films are very beloved in Russia. Due to their closeness to India and cultural resemblance, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Afghanistan have large fan bases for Indian films. While Indian television shows and films used to be prohibited in Pakistan, recent news has focused on the cooperation between the Pakistani and Indian film industries. Indian films and artists have the ability to improve ties between India and the United States, as seen by *Slumdog Millionaire's* enormous success at the Oscars, when three Indian artists and technologists took home individual prizes. India's policy is strengthened when Indian authors take home international honors like the Man-Booker Prize, when India is invited to be a special guest at international book fairs like the Frankfurt Book Fair, when Indian films are shown at international film festivals like Cannes, or when Indians win Nobel and Magsaysay prizes.

No longer does the picture of a poor peasant come to mind when people across the globe think about India. Indians are thought to be intelligent and resourceful individuals. They are regarded as professionals, IT experts, scientists, and people with ability and aptitude. This perception has only been strengthened by the accomplishments of businesses like Infosys and Wipro Technologies in the information technology industry, as well as the Tata and Reliance conglomerates. In India, the Indian Institutes of Management and Technology are regarded as centers of excellence for advanced education, research, and development in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. The Silicon Valley revolution was significantly influenced by Indians. Since there is so much violence and struggle nowadays, India's spirituality is also very in demand. India is accepting of other cultures and beliefs. Vasudhaiva Kutumba Am and Loka Samanthal Sukhino Bhavantho both preached in this region. The world may learn a lot from India's message of secularism today. The peaceful coexistence of several faiths is referred to as secularism. Additionally, Indian diplomats have contributed to the improvement of India's foreign policy. In the 1960s and 1970s, they had a big impact on world affairs, and they now have a big say in global discussions on things like climate change. Indian diplomats are well-versed in Indian culture and values, possess great communication skills, and have worked in the Indian Parliament and media. They are able to communicate with other governments and citizens because of this. India's impact via its culture is projected to grow in the future due to the media's and culture's expanding globalization [5], [6].

Economic and Military Factors

India had a poor economic foundation when it first emerged, along with a lack of technology and a weak military. India's commercial and economic relations were restricted to Britain and the Commonwealth nations soon after independence. Therefore, it made economic and military sense to develop favourable relations with western liberal nations. India was a developing nation that sought to industrialise and modernise in order to advance its economy. Peace at home and considerable economic and technical support from wealthy countries were prerequisites for economic progress. Jawaharlal Nehru was well aware that the goal of foreign policy should be to advance economic development. A growing nation like India needs outside assistance, whether in the form of money or technology. India did not, however, wish to

associate itself with either a capitalist or a communist bloc for this reason. It wanted to remain open to all types of help, whether it came from the West or the Soviet Union. India chose to follow the democratic socialist road rather than the free trade capitalism or the communist method, even as it pursued economic progress.

India made the decision to choose liberal democracy and a kind of socialism. Although there is no Soviet-style government in India, it has followed the Soviet model of planned economic growth. India sought help and support from both the blocs and the World Bank, but without forging any formal partnerships. India hoped for a stable international system since only then could it anticipate its fast progress. A developing nation might hire many professionals from wealthy nations who would bring in specialised training for development. Most wealthy nations successfully avoided transferring technologies to Third World nations. India made an effort to craft its foreign policy so that it could get loans at fair interest rates and unrestricted external economic help. It was made feasible for technology to be transferred, and both the West and the East provided support. However, America and its allies were better positioned to help than the Eastern European nations [7], [8].

This element significantly influenced India's foreign policy. India, a non-aligned country, was formerly thought to favour the West. Such claims were made inadvertently by the Soviet media. However, the Eastern Bloc started to recognise India's position as it showed its determination and independence in making decisions during the Korean and Suez crises. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of friendship and cooperation was signed in 1971, after the conclusion of the war with Pakistan, and the West began to criticise India's non-alignment and purported pro-Soviet attitude. However, Indian foreign and defence policy could not continue to be complacent after the Indo-China War of 1962. Therefore, it was determined that the nation would maintain its independence in issues of defence. India expanded the market for weaponry so that the military forces could get the training necessary to handle any eventuality that could arise. The 1965 Pakistani onslaught was quickly neutralized by India's defence forces, who used tanks and aircraft built there. The majority of the weaponry used by the Pakistani military came from America and China. India adopted a non-alignment policy after becoming self-sufficient and refrained from seeking any military alliances. India's choice to pursue nuclear energy gave it the chance to conduct a nuclear test in 1971 and signalled to the world that India could quickly acquire nuclear weapons if it so desired.

India ultimately conducted five nuclear tests in 1998 after leaving the possibility of using nuclear weapons open for long years. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the country's then-prime minister, proclaimed India a nuclear weapons state and promised that it would stop conducting nuclear tests. The world community was taken aback by the Vajpayee government's audacious action, but India upheld its constitutional prerogative. Numerous nations, including the US, criticised India. Regardless of whether nations officially recognised India as a nuclear weapon state, the international powers quickly accepted a nuclear India. Even after reaching a civil nuclear agreement with India in 2005, the US still referred to India as a state with advanced nuclear technology.

Ideological Factor

India's foreign policy was established by Jawaharlal Nehru, who was greatly influenced by the liberal democratic ideals of the west. The Soviet Union's economic policies also had an impact on him. Nehru aimed for a synthesis of the positive aspects of Soviet socialism with western liberal democracy. But he wanted to avoid both of their negative aspects. He thus made the decision to not slavishly adhere to any country's foreign policy tenets. H. J. Laski, the leader of the British Labour Party and a professor of political science, had made a significant

impression on Nehru. Laski adhered to a philosophy that combined liberalism and Marxism. Nehru attempted to imitate Laski. The fusion of liberalism and Marxism also indirectly led to the policy of non-alignment. Only Nehru's ideas had an impact on Indian policy. Indian humanism and global brotherhood concept have had an impact on it. India received praise for this approach and its efforts to build relationships with both power blocs throughout the Cold War. While establishing India's foreign policy, Nehru also attempted to embrace Gandhi's principles of truth and nonviolence [9], [10].

Pluralistic nature of Indian society

India is a socially diverse society made up of many castes, classes, philosophies, languages, religions, and races. Politically, socially, economically, culturally, and politically, it was and is a diverse nation. Therefore, India had to establish a strategy that could satisfy the many nationalities and sub nationalities in order to strengthen the integrity of the state in unity in diversity. Therefore, even internationally, it had to adopt a policy of amity and agreement among the world community, bearing in mind its own national interest. Similar to how India was strongly moved by the liberal democratic legacy of the West, it too admired Marxist socialism's accomplishments. India didn't follow either the West or the Soviet Union uncritically. It chose to follow a liberal democratic socialist moderate route.

International Determinants of India's Foreign Policy

India's independence ushered in the Cold War, which saw the globe split into two rival power blocs. This directly influenced how India's non-alignment policy was developed. With the declaration of India's independence, the decolonization process got underway. The worldwide milieu primarily focused on opposing imperialism and colonialism. India continued its attempts to hasten the decolonization process and to combat all types of racial discrimination, colonialism, and imperialism. The Second World War had destroyed the economy of several nations. There were already initiatives for economic growth and rebuilding. India sought to quickly build its economy by taking advantage of this. After the Second World War, India openly enlisted the aid of organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for this goal. Conflicts over ideologies were the cause of disagreements, aggressions, and wars. Ideological conflicts between liberal democracy and Marxism have taken the role of conflicts between fascism and communism, between democracies and totalitarian governments. India made the decision to stay out of these post-war ideological battles. After the Cold War ended, a new international environment started to take shape that placed an emphasis on economic liberalization even in nations like China. India was also motivated to change its focus from the public sector and the economy's partial management to the following:

- a) Liberalization.
- b) Reduction of state control.
- c) Encouragement to foreign investments in private and joint sectors.

Negotiating bilateral issues throughout the globe became possible because to the post-Cold War process of reconciliation that started in regions like the Israel-Palestine conflict. India has made an effort to settle its differences with Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China. Thus, we may conclude that India's foreign policy was shaped by the global environment and continues to be influenced by it.

In fact, India's foreign policy was directly impacted by the events of the 1990s. India's foreign policy was influenced by the breakup of the Soviet Union into 15 independent republics after communism's demise, the overthrow of socialist governments in East European nations and

their transition to democracy, the reunification of Germany, the emergence of the United States as the only superpower, and the end of bipolarity. India's veto on the CTBT at the Conference on Disarmament and its reluctance to sign the CTBT as enacted by the United Nations General Assembly were two significant milestones.

Evolution of India's Foreign Policy

In 1947, India attained independence and overtook the United States of America as the biggest democracy in the world. India follows China as the world's most populated nation. Six main faiths are represented, and sixteen major languages are spoken here. After gaining its independence, India did not want to be ruled by one of the military blocs. Two military blocs commanded by the capitalist US and the communist USSR divided and ruled the globe after globe War II. As a result of the tensions caused by the ideological divide between the US and the USSR, this conflict was known as the Cold War. India has always adhered to a policy of nonviolence and peace in both internal and international affairs. The foundation of Indian foreign policy is non-alignment, or not aligning with either of the armed blocs. She was able to pursue a policy of peace and act independently without being coerced by either of the armed blocs because to India's foreign policy. India wanted to utilise its resources to rebuild and develop the nation instead of using them to buy weapons since it had been a colony for such a long time. India decided to pursue a non-alignment strategy as a result.

A nation's foreign policy is influenced by a variety of internal and historical circumstances. The concepts and goals of the foreign policy have been shaped by a number of these variables in the case of India as well. Every head of state, together with his or her foreign minister, puts their mark on the foreign policy of the nation. For more than 17 years, Jawaharlal Nehru served as both the prime minister and the foreign minister. These were the early years of India's independence. Foreign policy is a policy that is inherent in the circumstance of India, inherent in the past thinkers of India, inherent in the entire mental outlook of India, inherent in the conditioning of the Indian mind during our struggle for freedom, and inherent in the circumstances of the world today, as stated by Jawaharlal Nehru in a speech delivered in the Lok Sabha after India gained its independence. This covered almost all of the fundamental factors that determine foreign policy, including geographic constraints, economic imperatives, cultural norms, political traditions and goals, as well as the domestic and global environment.

India's Foreign Policy's Base

India was encircled by countries like Ceylon in the south and Afghanistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet in the north while it was under British dominion. British India was divided into two new nations in 1947: Pakistan and India. These disparities in language, religion, society, and ethnicity led to this divide. The economic and cultural relations between the two countries were also hampered by these circumstances. West Pakistan and East Pakistan were created as a result of the division of India into its western and eastern halves. Following independence, India's authorities worked to create a secular state whereby national identity would take precedence over local, religious, or cultural identities. The movements for regional autonomy in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, and Assam were sponsored by Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and eventually Bangladesh because they were seen as challenges to the unity of India. Additionally, despite the leaders of the Congress' dedication to the principle of secularism, communal strife and the growing power of Hindu political parties forced the Indian government to associate Hinduism with the grandeur of India. Relations between India and its Muslim neighbors were tense as a consequence of Indian politicians' failure to stop anti-Muslim communal violence.

The majority of South Asia was seen by the British colonial authorities as a strategic entity

throughout their reign, and they worked to keep other countries out of the area. As these countries might attack India from the north, the British rulers established a barrier of buffer states that encircled and attempted to isolate India from Russia and China in order to safeguard this strategically important area. The British emperors utilized naval might to defend India from the south. The leaders of India embraced this strategy after assuming power by taking a stand from both a cultural and a geographical standpoint. This geo-strategic view has three effects on India's international relations. First, India made an effort to reverse any action by its neighbors that it deemed to be detrimental to its own security interests via treaties, alliances, threats of force, or economic sanctions. Only China and Pakistan have been able to stave off Indian aggression. Instead of seeing their nation as a regional enforcer that imposed strict restrictions on its neighbors due to its size and military might, the Indian elite saw their nation as a regional peacekeeper whose actions were entirely defensive. Second, even though India had already established a strong position in the area, the involvement of extrarational countries in the South Asian region posed a danger to its security.

India resisted any efforts by outside forces to intervene or establish a presence in the area, whether they were invited to do so by New Delhi's neighbors or not. India has thus consistently denounced Pakistan's relationship with China, Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, US military support for Pakistan, and US presence on Diego Garcia. Despite signing a friendship pact with the Soviet Union in 1971, India never agreed to Moscow's desire to allow a Soviet naval facility in the area. In order to protect its territory, India has to strengthen its military, and security concerns have influenced its foreign policy. India's development of its ballistic missile and covert nuclear weapons program strained relations with Pakistan, China, and the United States. India refused to ratify the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons because it believed the agreement discriminated against the development of peaceful nuclear technology by states without nuclear weapons and did not successfully stop the qualitative and quantitative vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons among those states that already had them. Pakistan also held a similar position. Although India continued to refuse to join and criticized the deal for perpetuating nuclear discrimination 174 other governments agreed to extend it indefinitely in 1995.

Historical Background

Before Independence, British India fostered diplomatic ties with a degree of autonomy. India joined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1947 after achieving independence from the British Empire, supporting other countries' independence struggles including the Indonesian National Revolution. India and Pakistan's ties have been tense for a long time due to the Partition and disagreements over some areas, such as Kashmir. India maintained a non-alignment foreign policy during the Cold War. In other words, it continued to be independent of any significant power group. However, it not only maintained cordial relations with the Soviet Union but also benefited greatly from its military assistance. The conclusion of the Cold War had an impact on India's foreign policy as well. The nation aimed to forge extremely strong diplomatic and economic ties with the US, China, the EU, Israel, Japan, Mexico, and Brazil. India has strong connections with the members of the African Union, Arab League, Association of South East Asian Nations, and Iran. India and Russia have strong military relations. Israel is its second-largest military ally. Additionally, it forges a solid strategic alliance with the US.

The 2008 signing and implementation of the Indo-US civil nuclear accord was a symbol of the healthy development in Indo-American ties.

Formulation of India's Foreign Policy

Jawaharlal Nehru believed that India's foreign policy should aim to bring about peace, ensure

the liberation of the oppressed nations, end racial discrimination, and refrain from interfering in the domestic affairs of other states. He also discussed the national and individual defence of freedom, as well as the fight against the diseases like sickness, poverty, and illiteracy that impact a big portion of mankind. But he always emphasized that India's foreign policy aimed for peace. The notion of non-alignment is one of India's foreign policy's most significant aspects. Nehru was certain from the start that joining any one power bloc was not in India's best interests. Nothing, according to him, would harm India more than joining a power bloc. This policy means that India will not embrace a certain power bloc's agenda or join a specific system of pacts or alliances that would bind India to one side or the other. It entails evaluating each problem solely based on its merits. This policy does refer to neutrality in the commonly understood meaning of the word. Additionally, it does not imply avoiding decisions. It has a somewhat upbeat and lively neutrality. It entails taking a separate course of action. No power bloc country is obligated to get support from this policy on every single topic. Asia has a significant role in this strategy.

Role of the Prime Minister

While the institutional framework itself was inadequate, Jawaharlal Nehru's new paradigm for creating India's foreign policy needed the Prime Minister to have a major personal role. Nehru served as both the minister of external affairs and the prime minister. He addressed and made decisions on crucial foreign policy issues with the help of his loyal advisors. Senior Indian Foreign Service personnel were then given responsibility for managing foreign relations. This custom persisted, and the succeeding prime ministers continued to exert influence over the nation's diplomatic transactions. However, many foreign affairs ministers were chosen. Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the PM's office additional authority between 1964 and 1966. In reality, the Prime Minister's Secretariat was a common name for it. The office eventually assumed the role of de facto Government of India coordinator by 1970. This improved and reinforced the PM's office's function and provided it greater authority over decisions pertaining to foreign policy. All of this, however, came at the Ministry of External Affairs' cost. Over and beyond what the Ministry of External Affairs advised, advisors in the PM's office gave information and advice.

The Prime Minister and his aides have access to more information thanks to the Research and Analysis Wing's many functions. RAW carried out covert activities overseas and gathered data, which was then examined at the Prime Minister's office. Throughout her two terms as Prime Minister (1966–1977 and 1980–1984), Indira Gandhi maintained tight control over the trusted personal adviser in the Prime Minister's Office. Her son Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded her, held substantial power over the PMO from 1984 until 1989. Unfortunately, there was less authority over the PMO when the Congress lost the general elections and the coalition governments of Morarji Desai from 1977 to 1979, V. P. Singh from 1989 to 1990, Chandra Shekhar from 1990 to 1991, and finally P. V. Narasimha Rao. The Prime Ministers continued to dominate the management of international relations in the 1990s due to their position as the decision-making authority on any given subject.

Office of Foreign Affairs

One division of the Indian Central Government is the Ministry of External Affairs. This organization's primary responsibility is to handle international affairs. It carries out tasks including developing foreign policy, putting that policy into practise, and managing international relations on a daily basis. A few specific responsibilities of the foreign ministry include timely information and assessment delivery to the prime minister and the minister of external affairs. Maintaining contact with the foreign mission in New Delhi, outlining a future

policy strategy and advocating particular actions as needed, is another duty of the Ministry. This ministry began operating missions overseas in almost 149 nations in 1994, and the Indian Foreign Service provided employees to run the organization. The head of this ministry, who is also a member of the Council of Ministers and has the title of Cabinet minister, is supported by a deputy minister, a foreign secretary, and secretaries of state from the Indian Foreign Service.

Thirteen geographical divisions make up the Ministry of External Affairs, which covers a wide swath of the globe, including Eastern Europe, former Soviet Union republics, and smaller regions on India's border, such as Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. The ministry is divided into functional sections that deal with the UN, other international organizations, conferences, protocol, and external publicity. The division ramps up its efforts in response to shifting governmental economic priorities and the global economic landscape. The ministry formed the economic coordination unit in 1990 to evaluate India's exposure to the Persian Gulf Crisis. Additionally, it looked at the developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as well as the development of the European Economic Community's single market. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), which is operated by the Ministry, organizes exhibits, festivals, trips, and other types of cultural exchanges with other nations. The operations of foreign cultural centers in India are likewise under the control of ICCR.

DISCUSSION

India's foreign policy's impact and independence have generated a lot of discussion and study. As a significant global player, India must navigate a complicated network of international ties that influence its foreign policy choices. India's foreign policy is, on the one hand, impacted by its historical and cultural linkages, local security concerns, economic goals, and global power dynamics. Strategic alliances between the nation and powerful nations like the US, Russia, and the EU are vital in determining the direction of its foreign policy. India, on the other hand, has repeatedly reaffirmed its independence in international relations, following a non-alignment strategy and upholding a moral position on matters like nuclear disarmament, climate change, and human rights. India's dedication to pursuing a separate foreign policy agenda is shown in its strong involvement in multilateral venues like the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement. But as it navigates a fast-shifting global scene, India always struggles to strike a careful balance between influence and independence. The country's foreign policy decisions are often examined, both at home and abroad, bringing to light the complexity and subtleties involved in achieving the ideal balance between external influence and the preservation of national interests and values.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a complex interaction of internal, regional, and international issues affects India's foreign policy's impact and independence. Historical linkages, local security concerns, economic interests, and global power dynamics all affect India's foreign policy decisions. The nation sustains strategic alliances with powerful nations while simultaneously asserting its independence by adherence to a non-alignment policy and support for universal causes based on its values. India always struggles to strike the correct balance between influence and independence as it works to uphold its national interests and ideals while actively participating in the international community. The development of India's foreign policy will definitely continue to influence and be affected by the constantly shifting dynamics of the global stage as it continues to become a major power.

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CHAPTER 4

AN OVERVIEW OF THE DYNAMICS OF FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING

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ABSTRACT:

The dynamics of foreign policy-making encompass a complex and intricate process that involves the formulation and implementation of a nation's approach to international affairs. This chapter delves into the multifaceted nature of foreign policy-making, exploring the interplay of various factors, actors, and processes that shape the decision-making process. It examines the role of domestic politics, international relations, and evolving global trends in influencing foreign policy outcomes. Additionally, this chapter highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics between government institutions, political leaders, interest groups, and public opinion in shaping foreign policy decisions. By providing insights into these dynamics, this chapter contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges inherent in the formulation of foreign policy and its impact on a nation's international engagement.

KEYWORDS:

Decision Making, Dynamics, Foreign Policy, Formulation, Global Trends, International Relations.

INTRODUCTION

Other government organizations, outside the Prime Minister's office and the Ministry of External Affairs, have some part in determining foreign policy. In principle, at cabinet sessions, the ministers of defense, trade, and finance also examine legal issues pertaining to choices made in foreign policy. An example of a bicameral legislature is the Indian Parliament. The Parliament only has a little influence in determining foreign policy. The state is legally obligated by the negotiated treaties and international accords, but domestic legislation is enacted by an act of Parliament. The Foreign Ministry appoints the other government officials and diplomats who work in the foreign affairs division of High Commissions and Embassies. The Parliament has approved government initiatives or requested data. In the middle of the 1990s, the Lok Sabha's Committee on External Affairs served as the most significant formal conduit between the Parliament and the Executive. The Committee used to have regular meetings and had members from a variety of parties. It often functioned as a deliberative body or as a venue for government directives [1].

The Role of Political Parties and Interest Groups

As they had been since Independence, institutional links between public opinion and the formulation of foreign policy were frail or minimal in the mid-1990s. Although international concerns have garnered a lot of attention in the media and among academics, the opinions presented in these publications by journalists and academics have minimal impact on the formulation of foreign policy. Foreign policy-related interest organizations may be found both within and outside of Parliament, such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce International. Other organizations, like friendship or cultural organizations, encourage stronger relations with certain governments.

Some opposition parties have often had a more significant impact on determining foreign policy. However, their views on foreign policy have been shown to be divergent or hostile to the government. Their opinions had minimal influence on India's formulation of foreign policy towards the end of the 1990s. Only a small number of groups, including the Communist groups, the Janata Party, and the Jana Sang, had any influence over the creation of foreign policy in addition to the Congress. The Bhartiya Janata Party, one of its predecessors, created ordered or consistent foreign policy agendas. After the middle of the 1950s, the Communist parties were seen as being more helpful in the development of India's foreign policy. Then-Prime Minister Morarji Desai made a commitment to revert to genuine non-alignment during the Janata Party rule. Because of security concerns, neither Morarji Desai nor A. B. Vajpayee, the then-minister of external affairs, altered the non-alignment policy. The BJP administration had a distinct foreign policy than the Congress. The BJP opposed non-alignment and favored a more aggressive use of Indian strength to protect national interests from being undermined by China and Pakistan. The BJP has always supported the purchase of nuclear weapons [2].

Foreign Policy and National Interest

Diplomacy or international relations policy are other terms for foreign policy. As a result, it has been said that foreign policy and diplomacy are the spokes on which the process of international relations turns. No state can exist alone. The relationship between national objectives and the resources needed to achieve them is a recurring theme in statecraft. The components of any country's foreign policy are the same, regardless of size. The nation's objectives are identified by those who formulate foreign policy. Each state must determine how much effort is necessary to preserve ties with another nation that would keep it safe. India made a clear foreign policy choice in 1949 to cut all connections with South Africa's apartheid government. Similar to this, it is apparent that the USSR strategy was to refuse to recognize the Soviet Union following the Bolshevik Revolution until 1934. The survival and security of the state are the traditional definitions of national interest. Thus, it is accurate to state that India's national interest is the welfare, advancement, and happiness of its citizens. From a different perspective, the main component of international relations is national interest. Self-interest is a basic reason for national policy, not just a valid one [3], [4].

Foreign Policy and Power

Power is a very complicated idea. Finding a definition that will be agreed upon by everybody is not simple. A layperson may easily say that one nation is more powerful than another. Although it is well recognised that the US is more powerful than India, it is quite difficult to determine precisely what the power consists of. Everyone is familiar with this. But what precisely gives the US its strength? What makes the US strong is the sheer amount of power it has relative to other nations. Power has a different role in home issues than it does in world politics. It is impossible to control all relationships in civilised cultures only by physical force. By adhering to a system of non-violent principles and processes, wrongs are rectified.

People no longer have the authority to impose their own laws. States are forced to use force to defend their rights since there are no universal guidelines or tools for international relations or foreign policy. For this reason, numerous dictators such as Hitler, Mussolini, Yahya Khan, and Saddam Hussain promised their nations a beautiful future, yet their actions often resulted in catastrophe. A democratic government is ultimately considerably more successful than a tyrannical one, which merely produces short-term advantages before descending into anarchy. Additionally, home policies always have an impact on international ones. Once again, we may assert that a nation's military might directly affects its foreign policy.

Principles and Objectives of India's Foreign Policy

India's foreign policy goals in 1947 were to create a peaceful environment, secure its strategic autonomy, and avoid being involved in any Cold War wars or alliances while focusing on its internal integration and nation-building efforts. The capacity to evaluate matters on their merits and how they affected India's interests or, as our first Prime Minister Nehru liked to say, enlightened self-interest was a key component of non-alignment as a strategy. The foundation of Indian nationalism has never been a shared language, shared religion, or shared ethnicity. It was only logical that we would seek out and advance the same values overseas as we worked to create a plural, democratic, secular, and tolerant society of our own.

Objectives of India's Foreign Policy

The objectives of Indian foreign policy are clear-cut and uncomplicated. The preservation and development of global peace and security has always been the major objective. The Indian Constitution established both the ideas and goals of India's domestic and international policies. The primary goal of any country's foreign policy, according to Muchkund Dubey, a former foreign secretary of India, is to advance that country's national interests, ensure its security, protect its sovereignty, contribute to its growth and prosperity, and generally elevate that country's stature, influence, and role in the comity of nations. A nation's foreign policy should be able to further the goals of fostering world peace, disarmament, and development as well as the creation of a just, equitable, and stable international system. Before establishing fundamental ideas and drafting the program, the foreign policy makers put forth a number of goals. Although the level of focus varies, many of these goals are similar. After gaining independence, India faced very challenging circumstances while deciding on the goals of its foreign policy. Internally, the division of British India created a legacy of intense animosity and malice that eventually gave rise to Pakistan. India has just one economic entity prior to then. Numerous economic issues were brought on by its split, which were exacerbated by the influx of millions of Hindus and Sikhs who left Pakistan and needed to be rehabilitated [5], [6].

India quickly became embroiled in a conflict in Kashmir that was imposed by tribal groups along the North-West boundary who were supported by Pakistan. Strikes were organized by the left, further endangering the Indian economy. In order to provide food, clothes, and shelter for its enormous people, India had to address this enormous issue. India's military capabilities were likewise weak. India's security issue was made worse by an antagonistic Pakistan. India too had to handle a different issue. The topic was internal consolidation. There were a few isolated enclaves of French and Portuguese territories in India after the British withdrew in 1947. Naturally, India's first attempts focused on negotiating with the two superpowers. After protracted talks, the French finally decided to leave, but military action was still necessary in 1961 to free Goa and other Portuguese holdings. Meanwhile, the Cold War had started, and East-West relations were rapidly worsening.

The global environment was not particularly favourable. In this case, India made the decision that promoting global peace would be a central aspect of its foreign policy. India needed peace as a necessity for its own security, not only as a desirable ideal. India's attitude to peace, according to Nehru, is a proactive, productive approach rather than a passive, unhelpful, or neutral one. India has always stressed on finding peaceful solutions to all issues in its message to the globe. Peace means avoiding conflict, lowering tension, and, if at all possible, ending the Cold War. A international order founded on understanding and collaboration needed to be maintained, which called for an effective organization like the United Nations. The use of armaments must be curbed before there can be global peace.

Rooting out additional causes of conflict via initiatives like subject peoples' freedom and the abolition of racial discrimination was a top priority. India will pursue an autonomous foreign policy without adhering to any major power group in order to attain this aim. Additionally, it would have to support and have trust in the UN. The pursuit of peace was one of the foreign policy's main goals. As a result, India's pursuit of peace was motivated by both its own self-interest and the idealism it absorbed from Mahatma Gandhi. Another goal of the foreign policy was the eradication of needs, illnesses, and illiteracy. These social problems affected numerous emerging nations in Asia and Africa in addition to Indian society. While India's domestic policy aimed to eradicate poverty and sickness, it was strongly linked to the issue of foreign aid and assistance. Additionally, India worked in conjunction with other international organization's including the WHO, FAO, UNICEF, and UNESCO to combat hunger, poverty, illiteracy, illness, and starvation in a number of developing and undeveloped nations [7], [8].

India has voluntarily decided to continue being a Commonwealth of Nations member. The Commonwealth, an alliance of independent, sovereign nations that were once British Empire colonies, currently recognizes the British Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth rather than the Crown of a republic like India. Before 1949, the so-called British Commonwealth solely included the British Dominions. The British Crown served as the head of state for all the dominions. India, which had just declared itself a republic, opted against leaving the Commonwealth and instead chose to recognise the British monarch as its head of state. India and the other Commonwealth members kept working together for the good of both parties.

India's goal is to uphold friendly relations with everyone, refrain from military alliances, uphold non-alignment as a moral principle, seek out peaceful resolution of international conflicts, and advance universal brotherhood and humanism by upholding and promoting the five Panchsheel principles. India has always upheld the values of non-interference and peaceful coexistence. All of these goals have been accomplished thanks to the foreign policy initiatives and guiding principles of India. Despite being forced into conflicts by China and Pakistan, India has continued to support peaceful solutions to problems between states or countries. India has always made an effort to maintain cordial ties with other nations, especially those who are its neighbors. India continues to strive for global peace and has insisted on the total abolition of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of the United Nations as a result.

Principles of India's Foreign Policy

The non-aligned movement and Panchsheel are the cornerstones of Indian foreign policy. Jawaharlal Nehru is credited with coining the phrase non-alignment. Non-alignment during the Cold War means not aligning with either of the two major blocs. It implies that India may conduct its own foreign policy independently. Furthermore, on April 29, 1954, India and China signed Panther, the second-most significant tenet of Indian foreign strategy.

i. Non-Alignment

India was a key player in the multilateral movements of former colonies and recently independent nations that eventually became known as the Non-Aligned Movement. President Nasser of Egypt, Joseph Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, and Jawaharlal Nehru were the principal designers of the Non-Aligned Movement's foreign strategy. This strategy pleased the majority of the nations in Asia and Africa, who thereafter joined the non-aligned movement. Today, practically all of Asia's and Africa's nations are members. Belgrade hosted the first non-aligned conference in 1961. The Non-Aligned Movement promotes disarmament, independence, and peace. It denounces racial prejudice, colonialism, and imperialism. The Non-Aligned Movement was successful in implementing its programme of aiding nations vying for independence, partnering with other nations to foster their economies, and denouncing all

forms of prejudice. India has always participated actively in global affairs. India has been active in world politics even before becoming independent. India has denounced the fascist aggression of Japan, Germany, and Italy that started the Second World War. India firmly opposed South Africa's apartheid system, which was ruled by a white minority. India, a country that values peace, has backed disarmament in a number of multilateral fora. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, first used the phrase non-Alignment in a 1954 address in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

It's crucial to remember that neither neutrality nor Nehru's definition of non-alignment imply abstinence from engagement in international affairs. In actuality, the policy is active in nature and requires choosing sides depending on the merits of each individual case. This suggests that valid issue-bound non-alignment tilts exist, and as a result, the idea does not necessitate being equally distanced from both super powers. The core and essence of Indian foreign policy is non-alignment. It is a policy to refrain from supporting any power grouping. According to Nehru, non-alignment entailed no commitment to any political or military grouping. It denotes a conscious disengagement from either bloc or a resolve to evaluate each international topic on its own merits. Non-alignment, in Nehru's view, is a component of independence since it allows for freedom of action. It serves as a way of preserving national sovereignty and promoting international peace. India's geographic placement at the crossroads of South East Asia and the Middle East, its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, and its proximity to communist China in the north made it essential to avoid military alliances, on the other hand. The non-alignment strategy is in line with Indian heritage and philosophy [9], [10].

ii. Panch sheel and Peaceful Co-Existence

National independence and liberation movements exploded after the Second World War in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In order to protect their national sovereignty and grow their economies, newly independent nations sought the formation of new patterns of international relations based on equality. This strong and widespread desire of newly independent countries led to the creation of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. On April 1, 1950, India and China, two Asian superpowers, established diplomatic relations. An agreement on commerce and communications between the Indian subcontinent and Tibet in China was signed by the two countries on April 29, 1954. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were officially included into the agreement's introduction for the first time at this time.

Consequently, the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were formally proclaimed as the fundamental principles governing Sino-Indian and Sino-Myanmar relations in the Joint Declaration of Chinese and Indian Premiers issued on June 28, 1954, and the Joint Declaration of Chinese and Myanmar Premiers issued the following day. While the Sino-Myanmar joint declaration stated the hope that these principles will be observed by all nations, the Sino-Indian joint declaration recommended that these principles are not only applicable to relations between nations, but also to the general international relationship. China, India, and Myanmar started the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence after a year, in April 1955. The historic Asian-African Conference took place in Bandung, Indonesia, and included 29 recently independent Asian and African nations. The meeting approved the Declaration on Promotion of World Peace and Cooperation and established the ten Bandung meeting principles as a result of the collective efforts of the participants.

These 10 principles were an expansion and development of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and they included issues pertaining to them. Since that time, an increasing number of nations and international organisations have recognised and embraced the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Major international texts, such as resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly, have included statements made at various international gatherings. The five

principles were reinforced in treaties and communiqués that China signed with foreign nations, in addition to the agreements detailing its diplomatic relations with more than 160 governments. The following are the five principles listed in the agreement's preamble:

- a) Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- b) Mutual non-aggression.
- c) Mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- d) Equality and mutual benefits.
- e) Peaceful co-existence.

The term Panchsheel is found in ancient Buddhist literature and refers to the five principles of good conduct of individuals:

- a) Truth.
- b) Non-violence.
- c) Celibacy.
- d) Refrain from drinking.
- e) Vow not to steal.

Panchsheel quickly gained such a following that Nehru referred to it as an international coin. By the end of 1956, Panchsheel had received the support of numerous nations, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, Indonesia, Egypt, Nepal, Poland, the USSR, Saudi Arabia, and Yugoslavia. The UN General Assembly likewise made the decision to adopt the five principles in 1959. The five guiding principles of Indonesian National Policy were also stated by Indonesian President Sukarno in 1955. The Panchashila or five principles were as follows:

- a) Faith in nationalism.
- b) Faith in humanity.
- c) Faith in independence.
- d) Faith in social justice.
- e) Faith in God.

The five Panchsheel principles, however, which were announced in 1954, did not represent either nationalism or morality. These were the guidelines that sovereign governments should follow while dealing with other countries. These are common standards for how civilized countries should act with one another. Important goals of amicable international relations include respecting the territorial integrity of nations and abstaining from violence.

iii. Freedom of Dependent People

Indian foreign policy decision-makers have always seen anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism as matters of religion. India resolved to fight all types of colonialism and imperialism after being a long-time victim of British imperialism. India made the decision to assist the cause of the liberation of Asia's and Africa's dependant people wholeheartedly as a result. During the Second World War, the Japanese had seized control of the former Dutch province of Indonesia. When the Netherlands attempted to reestablish their control after defeating Japan, India

opposed it even at the UN and supported Indonesia in its bid for independence. Once again, India provided unwavering support for the liberation movements in Malaya, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, and the Gold Coast, among other Asian and African nations. India also backed Namibia's people in their fight for freedom from racist South Africa throughout their long period of colonial oppression. Thus, promoting the right of all colonial people to self-determination was a key goal and guiding concept of India's foreign policy.

iv. Foreign Economic Aid and India's Independent Policy

An essential need existed for a country like India to build its economy. India started focusing its resources on quick and well-planned global growth shortly after gaining independence. India, however, struggled with a shortage of sufficient materials and technological know-how. India has already chosen non-alignment as its fundamental stance. India might have received the financial and scientific assistance it needed from the US or the USSR. The USSR was thought to be unwilling to assist a non-communist nation. The Indian government and business sector both knew that the US would be the only nation able to provide India with significant assistance. India, however, was adamant about maintaining its national independence, non-alignment, and sovereignty. Despite its steadfast refusal to accept any help that came with conditions, India had managed to become relatively close to the United States by 1949. As nationalization of industry proved impractical, several sectors of the Indian industry placed pressure on the Indian government to acquire foreign investment. India realized there was a risk of communism emerging in India as well because of the success of communist China, but only if significant economic growth was started, naturally with foreign help. There was a rising awareness of the need of aiding India in order to prevent Chinese Communist triumph in the nation, even in the United States.

Thus, the US's strategy of providing economic aid to India got underway. As the process of development advanced, India also began taking funding from the World Bank and a number of other nations. Over time, Soviet mistrust of India as a pro-Western nation was dispelled. Aid from the Eastern Bloc was appreciated in India as well. Then, as the Soviet Union struggled, two new economic giants started to emerge. As industrially advanced nations, Germany and Japan began aiding several nations, including India. Sadly, Western nations have been reluctant to provide India and other developing nations access to their technologies. India made an effort to maintain its decision-making and foreign policy autonomy. It was accused as being pro-Western at times and clearly pro-Soviet Union at other times. India made an effort to strike a balance and follow its own course. India made the decision to nationalize a lot of things during the rule of Indira Gandhi. The western countries started to doubt India's strategy of autonomous decision-making and non-alignment since socialism was an aim of the Indian economy. Midway through 1991, India made the decision to liberalize its economy, and as the Soviet Union fell apart, India's economy inevitably gravitated towards capitalism.

v. Opposition to Racial Discrimination

India upholds the equality of all people. Its policy strives to combat racial prejudice in all its manifestations. The worst example of prejudice and exploitation of people of color, especially those of Indian ancestry, occurred in South Africa. India fully backed the cause of those who had been subjected to societal prejudice. India utilized its clout to apply broad sanctions on South Africa's discriminatory white minority rule in addition to severing diplomatic ties with that country in 1949. India refused to provide any assistance to the racist dictatorship, criticized the system both within and outside the United Nations, and supported the call for racial equality. Early in 1994, apartheid was finally abolished, and Nelson Mandela successfully led the election and installation of a majority administration. India restored its connections with

South Africa by helping that nation achieve its aim of racial equality. India has consistently backed the creation of such a society because it is a culture that values equality and in which discrimination on the basis of race, colour, or class is nonexistent.

vi. Support to the United Nations

The United Nations and several of its specialized organizations were founded by India. India has great confidence in global institutions and organizations. India has a strong commitment to maintaining world peace and security. Despite possessing nuclear weapons, India opposes the use of weapons and favours their total removal along with a significant decrease in conventional weapons and military forces. It thinks that through making the UN stronger, these objectives may be accomplished. India plays a significant role in the UN's non-aligned movement. It is a well-known Afro-Asian member of the international organization. In the UN and its agencies, India has sponsored and backed various progressive initiatives.

In 1953, an Indian named Vijay Laxmi Pandit was chosen to lead the UN General Assembly. India has served a number of stints as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Once again, India was chosen as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and has been a member since 2011. Everybody acknowledges India's contribution to the cause of global peace. India has eagerly reacted to the UN's request for assistance in collective security and peacekeeping initiatives. In addition to sending a medical unit to the Korean War, India also actively took part in the repatriation of prisoners of war following the Korean War. India has also provided assistance to Egypt, Congo, and Yugoslavia at the request of the UN for peacekeeping.

Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes

Disputes among nations are unavoidable. There can only be two methods for the settlement of international disputes:

- a) War.
- b) Peaceful settlement.

Since ancient times, the most popular means of resolving conflicts has been war. It was believed that using force to settle differences was acceptable. One country ultimately prevailed over the other as a consequence. The peaceful resolution of this disagreement is India's foreign policy priority. The word peaceful is stressed more than settlement. Therefore, peaceful resolution of conflicts is the obvious approach if India's purpose is to promote world peace. All future administrations were specifically urged by India's founding fathers to remember that their country favored a peaceful resolution of international disputes. According to Article 51 of the Indian Constitution, the state must make every effort to find a peaceful resolution to international issues. India opposes and rejects negotiation through strength as being unreasonable. India had to deal with conflicts that were forced upon it, but this did not cause it to lose trust in peaceful solutions. In countries like Britain, the fundamental tenets of foreign policy often do not drastically alter when a government is changed. With the adoption of this tradition, India's fundamental policy commitments have stayed the same or unmodified even when Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers have changed.

DISCUSSION

The dynamics of foreign policy-making elucidates several crucial aspects of this intricate process. Firstly, it highlights the significance of domestic factors in shaping foreign policy decisions. Political leaders, driven by their ideologies and electoral considerations, play a

pivotal role in formulating and implementing foreign policy strategies. Additionally, bureaucratic institutions and interest groups exert influence through their expertise and lobbying efforts. Public opinion, as expressed through media and public discourse, also plays a role in shaping foreign policy priorities. Furthermore, the discussion underscores the impact of international factors on foreign policy dynamics. Global power dynamics, geopolitical considerations, and regional alliances all influence a nation's foreign policy choices. Economic considerations, including trade relationships, investment opportunities, and financial stability, also weigh heavily on foreign policy decisions. The need to balance national interests with international obligations and norms further adds complexity to the decision-making process. Moreover, the discussion delves into the iterative nature of foreign policy-making. Foreign policy is not a static phenomenon but rather an evolving process that requires constant adaptation to changing circumstances. Policy adjustments may be prompted by external events, such as geopolitical shifts or crises, or internal factors, such as leadership changes or shifts in public sentiment. Overall, a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of foreign policy-making necessitates the recognition of the intricate interplay between domestic and international factors, the influence of key actors and institutions, and the iterative nature of decision-making processes. By exploring these dynamics, policymakers and scholars can gain valuable insights into how nations navigate the complex landscape of international relations and make informed foreign policy choices.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the dynamics of foreign policy-making encompass a wide array of factors and complexities that shape a nation's approach to international affairs. This research has shed light on the interplay between domestic and international influences, the roles of key actors and institutions, and the iterative nature of the decision-making process. By recognizing these dynamics, policymakers can make more informed and effective foreign policy choices that align with national interests and global realities. Additionally, scholars can deepen their understanding of the intricate mechanisms at play in international relations. As the world continues to evolve and face new challenges, a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of foreign policy-making will remain crucial for navigating the complexities of the global landscape and fostering peace, stability, and prosperity.

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CHAPTER 5

PRINCIPLES FOR INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

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ABSTRACT:

The principles governing India's foreign relations with its neighboring countries. As a major regional power in South Asia, India's interactions with its neighbors have significant implications for regional stability, economic integration, and security cooperation. By examining the historical context and key factors shaping India's foreign policy, this study identifies the core principles that guide India's approach towards its neighboring nations. The analysis encompasses factors such as geographic proximity, historical ties, economic interests, security concerns, and cultural affinities. Understanding these principles provides valuable insights into India's strategic outlook, bilateral engagements, and its pursuit of regional cooperation in an evolving geopolitical landscape.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Engagements, Cultural Affinities, Economic Interests, Foreign Policy, Geographic Proximity.

INTRODUCTION

The Gujral Doctrine is a collection of five guiding principles that were outlined by I. K. Gujral, first as the External Affairs Minister and subsequently as the Prime Minister, to govern India's foreign policy towards its closest neighbors. These five guiding principles are the result, among other things, of the conviction that India's stature and strength are inextricably linked to the caliber of its interactions with its neighbors [1]. As a result, it appreciates the value of amicable, cordial relationships with neighbors. The following are these guidelines. With neighbors like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, India does not expect reciprocity, but gives and accommodates whatever it can in good faith and trust. No South Asian country should permit its territory to be used against the interest of another country of the region. No country should interfere in the internal affairs of another. All South Asian countries must respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

All conflicts should be resolved amicably and bilaterally. The concept promoted intercultural exchanges, notably between India and Pakistan, to foster an environment that would allow the nations to resolve their disputes amicably. The Gujral Doctrine, which may be summed up in one statement as the practise of making unilateral concessions to neighbours and encouraging inter-personal communication, aims to improve relationships by amicable acts or gestures. The Doctrine portrays India as a sizable nation ready to assist its weaker neighbours on its own. It was commonly assumed that Gujral's close friend Professor Bhabani Sengupta was the author. As the post-Cold War international landscape altered, the Gujral Doctrine came to be seen as a key tenet of Indian foreign policy. The Gujral Doctrine gained importance when India and Pakistan established eight topics for dialogue in June 1997 at the Foreign Secretary level talks in order to foster trust and ensure the peaceful settlement of all concerns [2].

India's Option of nuclear weapons

Jawaharlal Nehru started the atomic energy research, and Dr. Homi Bhabha served as the Atomic Energy Commission's first chairman. Jawaharlal Nehru never emphasized the need for nuclear weapons acquisition, but he also never voiced opposition to it either. It was commonly accepted that atomic energy should be used for good. India didn't start pursuing nuclear energy until much later. The Bangladesh Crisis of 1971 demonstrated how Pakistan's ally China would aid Pakistan in developing nuclear weapons. As a result, it became crucial for India to create nuclear weapons in order to defend its borders. In May 1974, India carried out its first nuclear test. The worldwide outcry over the test led India to claim that it had simply been a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion.

The discriminatory Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, which recognized just five nuclear weapon nations and required the parties to refrain from nuclear weapon proliferation, is persistently rejected by India. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the then-prime minister, made the audacious choice to conduct five nuclear tests in May 1998. India was able to proclaim itself a nuclear weapon state because to the secret tests that were carried out. India bravely endured a barrage of criticism and harsh penalties from the US and its allies. India already had nuclear weapons, according to Vajpayee, thus there was no need for any more testing. India has thus far refused to ratify the CTBT and the NPT [3].

Nehru and India's Foreign Policy

Jawaharlal Nehru is credited with creating modern India's foreign policy. In the years just following Independence, he handled India's volatile domestic situation with care. Nehru's impact to foreign policy has been mostly positive. Like his economic measures, Nehru's foreign policy was heavily contested and debated when he served as foreign minister. He was just as affected by socialism as he was by Gandhi's Satyagraha principles. Two main ideas characterized Nehru's foreign policy:

- a) He wanted India to have an identity that would be independent of any form of apparent commitment to either power bloc, the US or the USSR.
- b) He had an unshaken faith in goodwill and honesty in matters of international affairs.

The first policy ultimately led to the attack of 1962, as all the clauses of the Panchsheel or five-point agreement of 1954 between New Delhi and Peking, were openly disobeyed. This breach of faith was a major shock for Nehru and also the reason for his death.

Nehru and NAM

The creation of NAM was the biggest accomplishment of Nehru's ambivalent foreign policy. Later on in his new coalition, Nehru found partners in Tito, Nasser, Sukarno, U Nu, and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. The newly independent and long-colonized countries of Asia and Africa that made up the NAM were first not taken seriously by either the Eastern bloc headed by the USSR or the Western bloc led by the US. After NAM was founded and started operating independently of any bloc, its significance became clear. Additionally, it experienced significant pressure from both sides of the international community. Nehru, though, continued with his objective. It was understood that the NAM was a tough test of his bravery, not merely a platform of neutral and passive states. The primary goal of NAM was to free the nations vying for independence from colonial rule. The NAM member nations peacefully agreed to accept and support the decolonization process [4], [5].

Nehru and the China Crisis

China-related aspects of Jawaharlal Nehru's foreign policy have drawn criticism. With China, Nehru aimed to forge a close-knit, advantageous connection. The Panchsheel accord, often known as the five-point agreement, was signed in 1954 between New India and China for this reason. Following the signing of this agreement, China started to monitor certain sections of the Indian border in 1955. India had agreed to engage in talks to find a peaceful solution to the issue. The Chinese administration, led by Chou En-Lai, sought to address the border problem in its whole at once, in contrast to India, which desired to address one issue at a time under Nehru's direction. The Chinese government broke the terms of the Panchsheel pact. China invaded India in 1962. Not only Nehru, but the whole world community, experienced a profound shock. The Indian military at the moment was unprepared for the conflict. Superpowers like the US and the USSR gave India some symbolic assistance. Despite the Soviet Union's involvement in the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Khrushchev offered assistance to the nation. However, American support was somewhat less than what Pakistan received in 1954, when it received significant military aid.

As he transformed India's military loss into a moral triumph, Nehru executed his last brilliant act of world diplomacy. The Chinese invasion had little impact on India's foreign policy. Nehru was compelled to alter his stance on foreign matters, nevertheless, as a result of internal opposition party criticism. Nehru acknowledged that while addressing global issues, perfect goodwill was not necessary. Dreams of Jawaharlal Nehru were more or less seriously derailed. Additionally, it was a huge, unexpected surprise. The primary guiding premise of Nehru's foreign policy was the country of India. Nehru, however, was not a Kautilya-Morgenthau realist. His leader Mahatma Gandhi, an idealist who advocated that moral ideal be applied to all aspects of politics, strongly affected him. As a result, Nehru did not see any conflict between India's national interest and the rightful interests of other countries. As evidenced by his general non-alignment policy and his choice to ascertain the opinions of the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the issue of the state's merger with India, Nehru insisted on national interest when formulating the foreign policy of the free India. This shows that he was more of an idealist than a realist. His agreement with Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai in 1954, which permitted Tibet's complete unification with China, demonstrates his utopian mindset [6], [7].

Nehru and the Kashmir Problem

Kashmir remained a concern, and Nehru was unable to resolve it via negotiations with Pakistan. Nehru was a proponent of genuine altruism and political charity. Even via the United Nations, he attempted to engage with the Pakistani administration. All peaceful accords, however, were rejected by Pakistan's military government. In 1950, even the offer of a vote was declined. As a Muslim-dominated region, Kashmir is still strategically hazardous for national security. The Kashmir crisis has not been resolved. It continues to be a bone of contention between India and Pakistan today. South Asia is also experiencing it as a global issue.

- a) A foreign policy just addresses global concerns like peace, decolonization, climate change, disarmament, and justice. In more precise terms, a nation's foreign policy is how it pursues its national interests in international affairs.
- b) In the present situation, no nation can avoid being involved.
- c) International relations, option.
- d) George Modelski defines foreign policy as 'the system of actions created by communities for modifying the behavior of other governments and for adapting their

own activities to the international environment.

- a) The main objectives of foreign policy:
 - i. To protect the territorial integrity of the country.
 - ii. To maintain links with other members of the international community and adopt policy of conflict or cooperation towards them with a view to promoting its own interests.
- b) The main goal of a foreign policy is to pursue the country's national interest. According to Paul Seabury, professor of political science who was also an authority on American foreign policy 'the national interest is what foreign policy-makers say it is.'
- c) The objectives of foreign policy can be classified into three categories: Core values and interests, Middle range objectives and Universal long-range objectives.
- d) Foreign policy analysis involves the study of how a state makes foreign policy.
- e) Approaches to foreign policy, over the years, have taken various forms.

Professors Black and Thompson assert that the Historical approach, Legalistic technique, and Descriptive method have dominated this topic. The three other categories of foreign policy methods are psychological, psychoanalytical, and decision-making [8], [9].

- a) There are several reasons why a foreign policy doesn't alter, including geostrategic circumstances, demographic potential, economic resources, and ideological climate.
- b) The formulation of foreign policy is influenced by a number of elements. These include the state's history, its administration, its people, its natural resources, its ideological subset, its military might, its industrial growth, its public opinion, and its geostrategic position.
- c) The national interest has a significant role in determining foreign policy. It is also seen as a foreign policy objective.
- d) In the context of international politics and foreign policy, the idea of power is one of the most contentious and important concepts. It has a significant position in the theory of global politics.
- e) Both domestically and internationally, India has always adhered to a policy of nonviolence and peace.
- f) This viewpoint served as the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. It was founded on the non-alignment movement, which meant that neither the US nor the USSR would support India in this conflict.
- g) India was able to pursue a peaceful policy and operate independently without being coerced by either of the armed blocs thanks to its foreign policy.
- h) A variety of domestic variables have had a significant impact on India's foreign policy.
- i) Having served as India's foreign minister for a number of years, Jawaharlal Nehru also had a significant influence on the country's foreign policy.
- j) During the British Empire's control, India was encircled by a number of nations, including Ceylon in the south and Afghanistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet in the north.

- k) Pakistan and India were created by the British as separate nations. Religious, social, ethnic, and linguistic issues were the cause of the division. The economic and cultural relations between the two countries were also hampered by these circumstances.
- l) Jawaharlal Nehru believed that eliminating racial prejudice, bringing about peace, securing the liberation of oppressed nationalities, and refraining from interfering in other nations' internal affairs should be the fundamental goals of India's foreign policy.
- m) Jawaharlal Nehru made sure that the Indian Prime Minister was in charge of developing India's foreign policy.
- n) The formulation of foreign policy also falls within the purview of the Ministry of External Affairs. It is a part of the Indian Central Government and carries out tasks including formulating policy, carrying it out in practise, and managing foreign relations on a daily basis.
- o) Domestic elements including geography, history and customs, culture, economic and military considerations, ideological considerations, the pluralistic makeup of Indian society, and many more have a significant impact on India's foreign policy.
- p) Upholding and advancing global peace and security has always been India's principal foreign policy objective. The Indian Constitution established both the ideas and goals of India's domestic and international policies.
- q) The non-aligned movement is the cornerstone of Indian foreign policy. Simply said, non-alignment implies not supporting any one power bloc. Additionally, it implied that India may pursue its own foreign policy at will [10], [11].

DISCUSSION

A set of guiding concepts that determine India's regional strategy inform its international ties with its neighbors. These guidelines are essential for deciding the kind and extent of India's interactions with its neighbors and are essential for preserving stability in the area, developing economic integration, and boosting security cooperation. Geographic closeness is one of the main elements affecting India's foreign policy towards its neighbors. India's location in South Asia means that it has both land and marine borders with a number of other countries, necessitating a thorough and complex approach to bilateral ties. The historical connections between India and its neighbors also have a big impact on the contemporary dynamics. The degree of trust, collaboration, and understanding between India and its neighbors is influenced by shared histories, cultural affinities, and historical connections. India's foreign policy is heavily influenced by economic interests. In terms of commerce, investment, and connectivity, India's neighbours offer enormous economic possibilities. India is aware of this and aims to improve economic cooperation via a variety of means, including cross-border efforts, regional trade agreements, and infrastructure development projects. India wants to establish advantageous ties that advance regional economic growth and development by encouraging economic integration. Another significant feature of India's ties with its neighbours is security concerns. India places a high priority on managing common security concerns and maintaining regional stability in light of South Asia's complex security environment. Maintaining peace and security in the region depends on collaboration in fields including counterterrorism, information sharing, border management, and defence cooperation. India's attempts to form strategic alliances and communicate with its neighbours demonstrate its commitment to handling shared security issues together. Cultural affinities also have an impact on India's foreign policy towards its neighbours. A feeling of familiarity and understanding is fostered by

a common cultural background, language connections, and interpersonal interactions, which promote increased collaboration and engagement. Initiatives in cultural diplomacy, educational interactions, and cultural gatherings provide venues for strengthening these ties and developing a feeling of mutual respect and identity.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the tenets governing India's ties with its neighbors serve as the cornerstone of its regional strategy. India's interactions with its neighbours are influenced by a variety of factors, including geographical closeness, historical links, economic interests, security concerns, and cultural affinities. India aims to advance regional stability, strengthen economic integration, and promote security cooperation by upholding these ideals. The upholding of these values demonstrates India's dedication to maintaining cordial ties with its neighbours, tackling common issues, and promoting mutual prosperity. These principles will continue to play a crucial role in determining India's foreign policy and its pursuit of regional cooperation in the South Asian setting as the geopolitical environment changes.

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CHAPTER 6

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS VARIOUS NATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

India's foreign policy towards various nations, providing a comprehensive analysis of the country's diplomatic approach and strategic engagements on the global stage. By exploring India's relationships with a diverse range of countries, including major powers, neighboring states, and emerging economies, this research sheds light on the nuances, priorities, and challenges that shape India's interactions with the international community. Through a multi-dimensional lens, the study investigates India's efforts to pursue its national interests, foster regional stability, expand economic ties, promote cultural diplomacy, and address pressing global issues. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of India's evolving foreign policy landscape and its role in shaping the dynamics of contemporary international relations.

KEYWORDS:

Diplomacy, Geopolitics, Global Relations, International Cooperation, National Interests.

INTRODUCTION

India's strategic place in the current world order has a significant influence on how it develops its policies, both globally and domestically. One such component is apparent in India's foreign policy, which very clearly demonstrates India's projection of its image as an impending global powerhouse by developing, maintaining, and strengthening partnerships with nations that are in its geographical vicinity or otherwise. Since gaining its independence, India has worked to develop a foreign policy that should support its reputation as a potential and powerful country. However, a number of worldwide crises and events that significantly altered the political and economic landscapes of the world, particularly in the 1990s, have had an impact on India's foreign policy. India has extremely strategically maneuvered and diplomatically managed its position in the worldwide global arena with the conclusion of the Cold War, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, challenges relating to nuclear weapons, economic crises, or border conflicts [1].

With regard to territorial disputes with its neighbors, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China, as well as its relations with superpowers like the US and the former Soviet Union, India has projected and offered to deepen its cultural, regional, economic, and even political ties with these nations. India has taken a tough stance in the past when encroachment of any type has occurred, whether on a geographic, political, or other level. It would be interesting to observe how India's foreign policy responds to the present problems and solidifies its relationships with other nations via its participation in organizations like ASEAN and SAARC. Afghanistan and India enjoy friendly and cordial bilateral ties. Additionally, India has strong ties with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. Bhutan and India have a relationship based on respect, confidence, and trust. For a variety of reasons, relations between India and Nepal are tense. yet, India is making steps to improve relations with one of its closest neighbors. The foreign policy of India towards different countries will be covered in this subject [2]. Following completion of this module, you will be able to:

- a) Assess India's policy towards great powers such as the US, UK, China and Russia.
- b) Evaluate the idea of trilateral cooperation between Russia, India and China.
- c) Analyze the relationship between India and the SAARC countries.
- d) Describe the importance of India's ties with Bangladesh.
- e) Discuss the issues causing a strain in relations between India and Nepal.
- f) Explain India's policies with respect to the Look East Policy.

India's Policy Towards Great Powers: USA, Russia, UK, China

India, one of the world's biggest democracies today, has one of the most dynamic and quickly expanding economies. India's potential is being seen by nations all around the globe, and these nations want to work with it to assure their own development. The majority of the nations in the world have official and diplomatic connections with India. In contrast to some of its neighbours, India has amicable ties with some of them. However, India understands the need of keeping friendly relations with its neighbours in order to become a global force. India's foreign policy towards the powerful nations of the US, UK, China, and Russia is discussed in this section [3].

India's Relations with the United States

The world's two biggest democracies have never had a close relationship. During the Cold War, South Asia did not factor significantly into American strategic thinking. India was formally a non-aligned nation, something the United States did not like. While Bangladesh remained an integral part of Pakistan until 1971, Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan were not large enough to be significant. Pakistan and Afghanistan were principally impacted by the rivalry of the Cold War.

Because of its links to the Soviet Union, the US believed that India belonged in the Soviet camp. The policies of the US and India often ran parallel to one another or indirectly varied because of the relationships with developing nations like Pakistan.

While the US did provide some assistance and support during the 1962 India-China crisis, it supported Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak conflict. The US assisted Pakistan in the 1971 India-Pakistan conflict, but it also forewarned India of its impending involvement and even sent the US 7th Fleet to the Bay of Bengal. In actuality, the Kashmir issue, the US's support for Pakistan, India's non-alignment policy, its friendly relations with the USSR, and its refusal to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty were among the obstacles to the development of strong ties between India and the US.

Ronald Reagan became the president of the United States of America in January 1981. The Reagan administration placed emphasis on a South Asian-leaning strategy. The anti-Afghan rebels received covert military assistance from this government, while Pakistan received full economic and military backing. This strategy undoubtedly harmed US-Indian relations. Nevertheless, the US had plans to set up a substantial military facility in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. However, the Indo-US relationship declined as a result of India's nuclear program and its acceptance of Kampuchea [4]. Apart from these issues, Indira Gandhi, the then-prime minister of India, wanted to build friendly ties with Washington for the following two reasons:

- i. India could not depend completely on the Soviet Union to supply defense materials as it would not serve India's long-term interests. The United States and other western states had better defense equipment, in terms of quality, than the Soviet Union.
- ii. India did not welcome the Soviet forces on the border of both Pakistan and Afghanistan, not only due to security reasons but also due to strategic reasons. To balance the situation, it would be better to have closer ties with the United States.

When she directly met President Ronald Reagan at the Cancun Conference in 1981, Indira Gandhi's diplomatic attempts to establish connection with the US government were made feasible. She met Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C., a year later. In the course of a few encounters, Indira Gandhi and Reagan became friendly. The expansion of scientific and technical collaboration between the two nations was formally agreed upon. Nevertheless, despite the development of this favourable connection, the fundamental, strategic, and political divide remained. As a result, there was continued tension between India and the United States.

Rajiv Gandhi wanted to reorient the Indo-US relationship. In 1985, he paid a visit to the US and made efforts to improve the tense ties. The United States also gave a positive response, consented to the transfer of cutting-edge technologies, and supplied cutting-edge military equipment. Even though Rajiv Gandhi's trip to the US produced no tangible outcomes, it did help the two nations better understand each other's interests. Both nations were content to deepen their ties throughout the 1980s without permanently compromising their respective national objectives. The Indo-US relationship eventually improved, but there was little substance. As a result, despite several attempts by the two presidents, the relationship between the nations remained tense [4], [5].

Expectations of a new partnership with the US started with the conclusion of the Cold War and the rise of the National Front administration in India. The Soviet military forces had left Afghanistan in 1989. India exhibited a cooperative stance towards the US during the 1990–1991 Gulf War and supplied refuelling facilities to American military transport aircrafts headed towards the conflict area in the Gulf. The Bush administration gave a positive response. The fact that the US warned Pakistan, put sanctions on Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, and froze military funding shows a shift in the US's approach. The UN decision on the Kashmir problem, he said, was equally unimportant. A prospective economic partner for the United States was also recognised in India, whose economy was liberalising. In light of the dominating position it was anticipated to play in the international arena, India and the US became closer after the fall of the Soviet Union.

When Bill Clinton was elected president of the United States in 1993, he emphasised that the promotion of peace and stability in the area was the main objective of his South Asia strategy. India's high hopes were so quickly dashed since the Kashmir dispute and nuclear non-proliferation were the core of the Clinton administration's new strategy in this area. The Clinton administration's strategy had an impact on India's fundamental national security interests, its territorial integrity, and the maintenance of the nuclear option. Even the economic cooperation fell short of expectations, and as a result, Indo-US relations suffered greatly in the early and middle 1990s. The US wants to monitor potential big power aspirants in order to maintain its status as the sole Superpower in the world. Naturally, India opposed both the US's stated goals and its attempt to establish a unipolar global order. India made the decision to acquire nuclear weapons for this reason in order to elevate its standing as a major world power [6], [7].

Preventing a conflict between India and Pakistan and halting the nuclear weapons race in the area were Bill Clinton's main priorities when he became president of the United States in 1993. However, it wasn't at all what India had anticipated. With the United States, India wanted to

improve ties. India intended to strengthen its ties with Pakistan in the areas of political, military, and economic cooperation. India's main goal was to get US backing for its expanding international ambitions. India advocated a policy of collaboration with the United States, while the United States devised a containment strategy against it. Additionally, the United States and other major nations denounced India's actions when it carried out its nuclear tests in May 1998, holding New Delhi responsible for the proliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. Pakistan eventually carried out nuclear tests as well. The Clinton administration levied economic penalties on Pakistan and India, and it also put pressure on other nations to follow suit. The United Nations Security Council was persuaded or pressured into enacting a resolution even though it did not recognise Pakistan and India as *de jure* nuclear weapon states.

After a month of testing, the Security Council approved a resolution with the need that all parties join the NPT, which may halt or restrict the development of new nuclear weapons. Consequently, a strategic interaction was added to or expanded this punitive framework. Both nations started looking for a new foundation for their relationship. The talks were initiated by Jaswant Singh, a special representative of India, and Strobe Talbott, the US deputy secretary of state. Bill Clinton visited India at the end of 2000, after negotiations between Strobe Talbott and Jaswant Singh. His visit forged closer links between the two nations, which finally resulted in lasting relations and a better understanding of one another's interests. Finally, a partnership between the two largest democracies in the world was stabilised on terms of shared economic goals, the battle against terrorism, and the advancement of democracy. Although the Clinton administration was able to forge solid connections with India, the Junior Bush administration had already made friends with this country by reaching a nuclear agreement with it. The collapse of the Soviet Union was the primary cause of the improved Indo-US ties after the end of the Cold War, although it took over ten years for both nations to develop mutual understanding. In addition to all disagreements being resolved, the two governments are also making efforts to strengthen their relationship.

The relationship between India and the United States seemed to have greatly improved during George W. Bush's presidency. This was a result of how passionately both nations felt about problems like terrorism, climate change, and energy security. After the World Trade Centre assault on September 11, 2001, George Bush teamed up with India to monitor and regulate the important water routes in the Indian Ocean between Singapore and the Suez Canal. Additionally, the Indian and US warships collaborated in search and rescue activities as well as in the reconstruction of the devastated regions in December 2004 after the terrible tsunami. Aiming to boost commerce, trade, and tourism via an increase in flights, India and the US signed the Open Skies Agreement in April 2005. The US-India relationship has become even stronger as a result of Obama's visit to India [8].

Recently, there have been a lot more high-level visits and interactions between India and the US. From September 26 to 30, 2014, Prime Minister Modi paid a visit to the US. While there, he met with President Obama, members of the US Congress, and political from a number of States and localities, as well as with officials of President Obama's Cabinet. Additionally, he made contact with leaders in US business and industry, civic society, think tanks, and the Indian-American community. During the visit, a Vision Statement and a Joint Statement were released. Following the trip, President Obama travelled to India as the chief guest for India's Republic Day from January 25–27, 2015. A Delhi Declaration of Friendship and a Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region were also adopted during the visit by the two parties. The Strategic and Commercial Dialogue of Foreign and Commerce Ministers was upgraded by both parties from the Strategic Dialogue between their respective Foreign Ministers.

On September 23–28, 2015, Prime Minister Modi paid a second visit to the US. During that time, he met with President Obama in a private setting, spoke with influential in industry, the media, academia, local government, and the Indian community, especially while visiting Silicon Valley. The presidents of the two nations often communicate with one another through phone conversations and meetings that take place outside of international gatherings. Between the Prime Minister's Office and the US White House, a hotline has been set up.

India-US Dialogue Architecture

Between the two governments, there are more than 50 bilateral discussion structures. The former Strategic Dialogue focused on five traditional pillars of bilateral relations: Strategic Cooperation. Energy and Climate Change. Education and Development. Economy, Trade and Agriculture. Science and Technology. and Health and Innovation. The first meeting of the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue at the level of EAM and MoS was held in Washington, DC, on September 22, 2015. There are also discussions at the ministerial level on housing, finance, business, HRD, science and technology, and energy.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation

The agreement between the two countries on civil nuclear cooperation was completed in July 2007 and signed in October 2008. The two sides established a Contact Group to advance the complete and prompt implementation of the India-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and to address outstanding problems during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US in September 2014. The group has had five meetings so far and has come to consensus on the nuclear liability risk management strategy, the compatibility of India's nuclear liability legislation with pertinent international treaties, and the establishment of an insurance pool that would rely on industry best practices. Currently, company-level negotiations about the techno-commercial viability of two US corporations' reactors at locations in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, respectively, are being held with M/s. Westinghouse and GE Hitachi.

India's Relations with Russia

Due to the vast population and strategic position of the Indian subcontinent, great countries have always found it difficult to control it. By establishing a policy of non-alignment as soon as India got independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister, aimed to keep India out of the escalating conflict between the US and USSR. But some elements propelled the Cold War between the two nations to South Asia. Both superpowers made an effort to seize control of the South Asian region. Over time, both India and Pakistan used the growing competition between the major powers to their advantage when drafting their foreign policies. For instance, by agreeing to serve US interests, Pakistan not only invited the superpower to the subcontinent but also reiterated its hostility against India. India was hence compelled to seek assistance from the USSR.

Both India and Pakistan disagreed on the Kashmir problem after achieving independence. Pakistan kept its ties with the major nations up in order to counter the military might of India. This was made clear in 1954 when Pakistan joined SEATO under US leadership. The whole backdrop of Indo-Pak relations has shifted as a result of this incident. For the purpose of containing communism in South Asia, Pakistan gave the United States military bases in exchange for both military and economic aid. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, was adamantly opposed to outside powers interfering in local affairs so as to prevent the introduction of Cold War politics in this area. Therefore, with the help of US armaments to Pakistan, Indo-Pak ties declined. In response, India started to buy weapons from non-American suppliers. While India was not interested in acquiring armaments from the Soviet Union, the

presence of US bases in Pakistan spurred the USSR to take a significant interest in the South Asian area with a security perspective in India. However, Pakistan had accepted the US weaponry assistance. India and Pakistan would have gone to war as a result of this. India, however, opposed any hostilities or conflicts in the area [9], [10].

After Stalin's death, the new leadership in the USSR quickly saw that the non-alignment strategy served to their benefit. As a result, they positioned themselves as the defenders of the non-aligned countries and their anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism policies. When Jawaharlal Nehru visited the USSR, he was impressed by their commitment to peaceful coexistence. Both countries committed to working together for the good of both parties and the general public. Khrushchev and Bulganin paid Nehru a visit in return, and they also travelled to India. On the basis of equality and mutual benefit, they announced that all circumstances for bilateral commerce, economic cooperation, and growth between India and the Soviet Union were provided. Additionally, the USSR agreed with India's view that Kashmir was a natural extension of India and subsequently defended India's interests before the UN Security Council. The two nations also shared a stance in the Suez crisis, despite India's reluctance to condemn the USSR for its intervention in Hungary.

The Sino-Soviet and Sino-Indian ties were also declining at the same time as the Indo-Soviet relationship. In 1959, the Tibetan revolt prompted India to purchase helicopters and transport aircraft from the USSR. An Indian team travelled to Moscow in October 1960 to seal the contract on the acquisition of aircraft and communication technology. The USSR was in a precarious position after the Chinese incursion in 1962 since it was impossible for it to refrain from supporting a communist regime. As a result, it took a neutral stance. India received some military aid from the US. Pakistan, on the other hand, made steady progress towards China in an effort to avoid relying only on one source for its military needs. Ayub Khan visited China in March 1965 and returned with supplies for Pakistan's military as well as political backing. The Soviet Union took a neutral stance throughout the 1965 war but promised to end the conflict between the two competing governments in a peaceful manner. When the US became engaged in the Vietnam War, Russia started acting as a mediator.

The 1960s saw a strengthening of Indo-Soviet ties, as well as the development of cordial ties between Pakistan and China, despite Pakistan's continuing active participation in the American bloc. Concurrently, the Sino-Soviet confrontation grew, to the point that China started labelling the USSR as a revisionist state. However, when millions of refugees started flooding into India as a result of the uprising that started in East Pakistan, the situation on the subcontinent deteriorated. Pakistan made the decision to go to war with India on the grounds that India was to blame for the turmoil and was aiding the Mukti Bahini in their fight against the Pakistani security forces. India, on the other hand, need a powerful partner to balance out the strategic ties between China and Pakistan and the US, while Pakistan had the full backing of both countries. In spite of its non-alignment stance, India signed into an Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty in 1971 that granted India the following benefits:

- a) Military technology.
- b) Economic assistance.
- c) Political support during the Indo-Pak war.

India's foreign policy changed after the pact with the Soviet Union was signed in 1971. It was the first political agreement that India had with a major power. There have been claims that this pact violates the non-alignment principle in certain circles. However, the Indian authorities insisted that this had no bearing on India's foreign policy's non-alignment. However, handling

Indo-Soviet relations for Indian authorities got increasingly challenging after the Afghanistan conflict. When the New Cold War started in 1979 as a result of Soviet action in Afghanistan, the world had abruptly transformed. India's approach to Afghanistan at the time was also criticised. Most nations in the globe denounced India's assistance for the Soviet invasion. In January 1980, as Indira Gandhi began her second term, she used the soft line strategy. This was harshly criticised since it plainly leaned towards the Soviet Union and undermined the non-alignment doctrine. India unquestionably opposed any foreign incursion into an independent nation like Afghanistan. Since India and the Soviet Union had cordial ties and Moscow had supported India economically and technologically, it was exceedingly difficult to criticise Moscow in public [11], [12]. Indira Gandhi was aware that Islamic fanatics governed Afghanistan and that the US did not support India's political and geostrategic objectives. Thus, Indira Gandhi implemented a policy that had the following three components:

- i.** The Soviet intervention was not publicly opposed by India.
- ii.** India ignored the intervention, which was to be discussed during the bilateral meetings between the two countries.
- iii.** India did not want to intervene in the internal affairs of Afghanistan to deal with any government, which was de facto in power of that country. On the other side, invasion was clearly against the values and ideals of India's foreign policy. However, India did not want to condemn Moscow to risk a rift between India and Soviet ties.

Rajiv Gandhi succeeded his mother Indira Gandhi as prime minister of India after her passing in October 1984. After the two brief terms of Andropov and Chernenko as president of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev was appointed general secretary of the Communist Party in 1985. During this time, when Mikhail Gorbachev was in charge of the USSR and Rajiv Gandhi was in charge of India, Indo-Soviet relations were further strengthened. On the majority of global concerns, the two nations had views that were essentially same. Gorbachev saw that the previous socialist experiment could no longer be implemented in the USSR and so he embraced the Perestroika and Glasnost ideology because it was more conducive to relations between the East and the West. This directly impacted both India's overall foreign policy as well as the relations between India and the Soviet Union in particular.

In May 1985, Rajiv Gandhi visited Moscow. The Soviet authorities told him that they were aware of India's concern about Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. Both nations signed agreements for economic and technological cooperation, which resulted in a significant rise in Soviet aid to India. Gorbachev's visit to Delhi culminated in the release of a momentous Delhi Declaration. Gorbachev and Rajiv Gandhi, both signed it. Gorbachev had issued a warning upon his arrival in India that if the Indo-Pak conflict was not resolved peacefully, it may have significant repercussions. Four factors led to cordial relations with Moscow:

- a)** Maintaining a political counter-balance with China, Pakistan, and the US.
- b)** Acquiring Soviet inputs in the high-technological sector.
- c)** Obtaining Soviet defense supplies.
- d)** Keeping up economic trade.

Due to the Soviet Union's détente with the West, India had the leeway to pursue relations with western nations at the same time. India maintained a strategy of continued and strengthened Indo-Soviet relations in the late 1980s, while gradually widening its connections with the West.

P. V. Narasimha Rao took over as prime minister of India when the Soviet Union collapsed. India implemented a privatization and liberalisation program. Globalization of the economy was quickly taking hold. The fall of the Soviet Union and the effects of economic globalization forced both nations to reconsider their foreign policy goals. Kozyrev, who served as Russia's foreign minister at the time, distinguished three spheres of influence for its foreign policy: the West, its near neighborhood, which includes the former Soviet republics, and the rest of the globe.

This strategy made it clear that India was not one of the primary partners that the new leadership in Moscow preferred. India was not necessarily under any obligation to maintain the long-standing relationship with Moscow. However, Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited India in 1993. He made an effort to dispel any uncertainty around relations between India and Russia. Yeltsin's visit demonstrated that Russia was unwilling to part ways with its dependable ally. Yeltsin reaffirmed that Russia stood for India in its dispute with Kashmir. Consequently, the two states re-established contact. After the Cold War ended, the Group of Seven highly industrialized nations made a lot of noise in 1992 and 1993 in support of Russia. As a result, Russia was accepted to the exclusive G-8 club, much to its dismay. Russia shifted its attention to China and India as a result. The Soviet Union's commitment to upholding India's territorial integrity and security was previously reaffirmed in 1993 when the Indo-Soviet Treaty was renewed. A military cooperation pact was reached after a year.

The strains of economic globalization were straining the economies of both nations. Because of this, both nations welcomed the resurgence of Indo-Soviet relations and needed a strategic partner to provide them with weapons and technology. The two nations also agreed to promote bilateral commerce and maintain the supply of spare parts for Indian defense equipment. The two nations signed a new treaty of friendship and cooperation in January 1993, resolving the long-running rupee-to-rouble exchange rate dispute and promising collaboration in a variety of areas, including the economy and politics. The two nations' connections are seen to be a crucial strategic relationship for both, and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has recently been working to further improve them. The conclusion of the Cold War had a significant impact on Indo-Soviet ties. The Soviet Union was one of India's most significant allies throughout the Cold War. However, it ceased to exist following the conclusion of the Cold War. As a result, India had to rebuild its relations with the former Soviet republics, Eastern European nations, and its successor state, the Russian Federation. The new Moscow administration also changed the direction of its foreign policy and strengthened connections with Western European and American nations. It is significant to remember that early in the 1990s, relations between India and Russia were not as robust as they had been. However, the relationship was revived within a short time and India and Russia both played significant roles in each other's foreign policy agendas.

Nuclear Energy

India is acknowledged as a nation with cutting-edge nuclear technology and a spotless non-proliferation record by Russia, a key partner in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The Strategic Vision for increasing collaboration in peaceful applications of atomic energy between India and Russia was signed in December 2014 by the Department of Atomic Energy and Rosatom of Russia. With Russian assistance, India is building the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. The KKNPP Unit 1 started up in July 2013 and reached full generating capacity on June 7, 2014, while the Unit 2 will be put into service in the first few months of 2015. A General Framework Agreement for KKNPP Units 3 and 4 has been signed between India and Russia, and more contracts are in the works. On June 9th, the Secretary of DAE travelled to Moscow to assess the broader level of cooperation in the area of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

During the Annual Summit on December 24, 2015, a deal was also reached regarding the localization of nuclear equipment in India.

Science and Technology

The three main institutional mechanisms for bilateral Science and Technology cooperation are the Working Group on Science and Technology operating under IRIGC-TEC, the Integrated Long-Term Programme, and the Basic Science Cooperation programme, while the Science Academies of the two countries encourage inter-academy exchanges. ILTP supported over 500 joint R&D projects over the course of its 25-year implementation period and helped establish 9 thematic centers in India and Russia. These initiatives led to the creation of over 1500 joint publications, numerous new products, processes, facilities, and research centres, as well as the creation of over 10,000 scientific contacts. In order to encourage the transfer of innovations in both directions and their commercialization, the India-Russia Science and Technology Centre was established in 2011–2012, with a branch in Moscow and one in Delhi–NCR.

The first batch of 11 cooperative R&D projects in 2014 were sponsored by the two new Programmes of Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation and Biotechnology that were finalized in October 2013. An MoU for collaboration in health research was signed in December 2014 by the Russian Foundation of Basic Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research. A contract to support fundamental and exploratory research was signed by the Department of Science and Technology and the Russian Science Foundation on May 8, 2015. CDAC, IISc, and Moscow State University inked a contract for collaboration in high performance computing at the 16th Annual Summit.

DISCUSSION

In today's quickly changing global environment, India's foreign policy with diverse countries is a topic of enormous relevance. India's foreign policy is discussed from a variety of angles, including diplomatic ties, strategic alliances, economic collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. India's strategy places a strong premium on developing bilateral ties with nations all over the globe. These connections are motivated by common interests, reciprocal advantages, and the pursuit of tactical goals. India's foreign policy strives to improve global influence, support economic progress, and boost regional stability. In particular, India's foreign policy towards its neighbours is significant. The nation is aware of how crucial it is to maintain friendly and cooperative ties with its close neighbours in order to preserve regional security and stability. This includes initiatives to put an end to protracted disputes, improve connectivity, and promote economic integration.

Additionally, India's interactions with powerful states like the United States, Russia, China, and European countries have a significant impact on the direction of its foreign policy. These connections often include intricate geopolitical calculations, juggling of conflicting interests, and the development of strategic alliances. India's foreign policy also goes beyond classic alliances and bilateral ties. The nation aggressively interacts with developing markets and non-aligned countries in an effort to deepen economic relations, foster cross-cultural dialogue, and coordinate efforts on international problems. India demonstrates its dedication to encouraging international collaboration and solving common concerns like climate change, terrorism, and global health by its proactive engagement in multilateral institutions like the United Nations, G20, BRICS, and regional organisations like ASEAN.

India's foreign policy does face certain difficulties, however. Significant obstacles include the fluidity of international relations, changing power balances, and regional complexity. Astute diplomacy and strategic knowledge are needed to manage different relationships, balance

conflicting interests, and adapt to geopolitical events. Additionally, border conflicts, security difficulties, and the interaction between domestic goals and international activities are all things that India's foreign policy must deal with.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India's foreign policy towards diverse countries has a significant impact on the direction of its influence and role in the world. India seeks to advance its national interests, promote regional stability, and make a contribution to global challenges via diplomatic engagements, strategic alignments, and economic cooperation. India aims to improve regional security and cooperation by focusing on bilateral connections, particularly with its neighbours. Additionally, its interactions with powerful nations and developing economies demonstrate its dedication to fortifying alliances and seizing chances for economic expansion. India actively participates in multilateral forums, demonstrating its will to work with others to solve common problems and advance global cooperation. But negotiating geopolitical complications and dealing with various issues provide substantial obstacles. India must balance domestic interests with its foreign policy ambitions in order to respond to the changing dynamics of the global environment. India strives to be a responsible global participant who contributes to a peaceful, prosperous, and connected world, and this is reflected in India's foreign policy towards diverse countries.

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CHAPTER 7

AN ELABORATION OF THE INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT:

India's relations with other countries, providing an overview of its diplomatic engagements and international partnerships. By analyzing the multifaceted dimensions of India's foreign policy, this research sheds light on the country's evolving role in the global arena. The chapter delves into India's diplomatic efforts, including its economic collaborations, strategic alliances, and cultural exchanges, highlighting key factors that shape its relationships with various nations. Through a comprehensive exploration of India's international engagements, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the country's position and influence in the ever-changing dynamics of international politics.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Relations, Diplomacy, Economic Collaborations, Foreign Policy, Geopolitics, Global Partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

Just two years after India attained independence, Mao Zedong announced the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. The two nations' ties began to improve with the rise of the People's Republic of China. India supports China's admission to the UN. India and China signed a treaty pertaining to Tibet in 1954, at which point Tibet was acknowledged as a part of China. The two nations' resolve to manage their relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence was also emphasized in this treaty. However, Sino-Indian ties deteriorated during the 1962 border conflict. India and China attempted to mend their diplomatic ties in 1976, but the situation did not change. The diplomatic impasse lasted until 1988. Both nations declared their desire to normalise Sino-Indian relations when diplomatic connections were reestablished. Political links could not be created, despite improvements in commerce, cultural, and scientific ties between the two nations.

India was seen as a Soviet Ally by China. Additionally, China vehemently criticised India for recognising the governments of Kabul and Phnom Penh. India felt misled by China for a while as it worked to improve ties with other South Asian nations. Despite their unsolved border dispute, China and Pakistan have developed strong strategic ties. Regarding the Sino-Indian border conflict, India and China have engaged in several rounds of negotiations without result. Concerns about China's true intentions were raised as a result of its help to Pakistan in its nuclear weapons development. Chinese forces were sent into Indian territory, and China protested the country's decision to award Arunachal Pradesh sovereignty, which India viewed as meddling in the country's internal affairs [1], [2]. Chinese President Deng Xiaoping proposed to Indian Foreign Minister A. B. Vajpayee that China was interested in normalizing its ties with India by resolving the border conflict and also wanted to concentrate on other areas of their relations. This was under the Janata government.

When Rajiv Gandhi assumed office as India's prime minister, he carefully considered Deng's suggestion as a motivator and came to the ultimate decision to end the political impasse between the two nations. In December 1988, Rajiv Gandhi travelled to China for the first time in more than 25 years. A Joint Working Group was formed to examine the border issue during his visit to Beijing, which resulted in intensive bilateral negotiations and an agreement between the two nations to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas. Rajiv Gandhi's visit and its results marked a significant improvement in Sino-Indian relations, which resulted in cordial ties between the two nations beginning in 1989. In the early 1990s, China had the opportunity to intervene and emerge as a significant ally as the Soviet Union broke apart and Indo-Soviet ties soured. Following a succession of high-level visits by the presidents of both sides, the two Asian nations inked several commercial, scientific, and even military accords. The Sino-Indian pact for maintaining tranquilly along the Line of Actual Control was signed in 1993. It signaled better Sino-Indian relations, and it became clear that the two Asian Powers would eventually resolve their differences.

However, it was determined that just strengthening military and commercial links and the Joint Working Group would not result in a resolution to the border issue. Due to the momentum of relative détente, the two nations tried not to push for a rapid settlement of the border conflict [3]. There were other troubling aspects of Sino-Indian ties besides the unresolved boundary conflict. There were a few other elements as well. China strengthened its military and economic relations with the other nations that India shares borders with while also providing Pakistan with political and military backing. Even then, India supported China's encirclement strategy and recognized Tibet as a separate, autonomous region of China. China followed a containment strategy and enhanced its ties with Taiwan, Japan, and other Southeast Asian countries. Between the two Asian countries, enhancing bilateral ties was considered as Cold War thinking. Both nations were developing as prospective world powers and were mindful of one another's respective regional objectives.

India surprised the world when it performed its nuclear tests in May 1998. Additionally, the relative détente in Sino-Indian relations came to an end after a decade. China felt the necessity to acquire nuclear weapons when India emerged as a de facto nuclear state. In a secret letter, the then-Indian Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee warned US President Bill Clinton that China was a nuclear danger to India. The nuclear tests carried out by India in 1998 drew vehement criticism from China. China was anticipated to aid Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. Unexpectedly, China chose not to back Pakistan and instead advocated for a bilateral, non-violent settlement to the issue. Midway through 1999, things started to fast shift, and it wasn't long before Sino-Indian relations started to improve. In June and July 1999, China put pressure on Pakistan to withdraw its troops from the Line of Control in Kargil. This served the cause of a new, multifaceted partnership between India and China while also taking into consideration the desires of the whole world community.

On the official request of his Chinese counterpart, the Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh visited China during the Kargil conflict. Several topics of international and bilateral relevance were addressed by both parties. The two nations decided to further up their confidence-building efforts and open communication on issues of shared interest. K. R. Narayanan, the president of India, travelled to China in May 2000. Narayanan's arrival signalled a new turning point. He laid the foundation for a union that would be more fruitful. The return trip of Chinese President and Party Chief Jiang Zemin the same year ushered in a new era of confidence. A. B. Vajpayee, who was the then-prime minister, was invited to China. When Manohar Joshi, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, visited China in January 2002, Zhu Ronggi, the then-President of China, predicted that the two nations will soon establish a fresh

cooperative collaboration. China was prepared to put the past disagreements behind her and start again. In June 2003, A. B. Vajpayee visited China, opening a new era of partnership. Additionally, China's perspective on Sikkim has altered. China acknowledged Sikkim as a part of India, and India in turn acknowledged Tibet as a part of China. It might be claimed that Rajiv Gandhi's trip to Beijing paved the path for cordial relations between China and India. The conclusion of the Cold War, however, also cannot be disregarded since it resulted in a marked improvement in Sino-Indian relations [4], [5].

When Chinese President Hu Jintao visited India in November 2006, it marked another significant turning point in the development of the Sino-Indian relationship. Both countries have previously discussed topics of mutual interests on the regional, international, and bilateral levels. Their relationship was significantly improved by their visit. Wen Jiabao, the premier of China, travelled to India in 2005. Both nations have made the decision to establish a strategic and constructive alliance during his visit. It was highlighted that their relationships had developed beyond the bilateral level to take on a strategic and global importance. The current period of Sino-Indian relations, according to Chinese President Hu Jintao, is a new historic beginning, and he urged both nations to seek to deepen their friendship and establish more beneficial long-term connections. Numerous initiatives to expand institutional ties between the two nations were announced during his visit, including support of comprehensive economic engagement, promotion of cross-border connectivity and collaboration, and improved science and technology.

The main emphasis area, however, was economic cooperation. Other areas of collaboration were beginning to emerge as China and India both aimed for multipolarity in international affairs. The Manmohan Singh administration committed to the process of normalization between India and China in May 2004. Singh concluded that the Special Representatives-level border talks were going in the correct path. He was happy that China acknowledged Sikkim as an indispensable part of India. The bilateral commerce was stated to have surpassed the 13-billion-dollar level by 2004 and it was anticipated that by 2008 it would reach the 20 billion dollar. Greater understanding resulted from a meeting between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Hu Jintao in 2006 and 2007. The two nations' trade was expanding. In the first quarter of 2007, it increased by 56.8%, and by 2010, it had surpassed 40 billion US dollars. India-China relations were finally strengthening. However, when China claimed Arunachal Pradesh as part of its sovereignty and refused to provide a visa to an IAS official from the state in 2007, tensions between India and China once again grew tense. Due to this, a group of IAS officials' trip to China had to be cancelled [6], [7].

However, the two state's leaders continued to have cordial ties. The Chinese President said that China would be pleased if India were successful in its bid to join the UN Security Council permanently. The two nations acknowledged that they could both effectively contribute to global concerns including terrorism and cross-border crime prevention, energy security, peace and prosperity in Asia and across the globe, and sustainable and equitable development. During his visit to China in 2006, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mani Shankar Aiyer, signed a contract that allowed ONGC Videsh Ltd. and China National Petroleum Corporation to participate in joint bids for project promotion. For their foreign relations, this had significant ramifications. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited China in 2008 and met with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao. They spoke bilaterally about trade, business, military, and other topics.

China and India reopened Nathula, a historic trading route that was a component of the Silk Road, on July 6, 2006. In October 1962, when the Sino-Indian border conflict started, the Himalayan pass Nathula was shut down for forty-four years. The first agreement for the

reopening of the trade route was drafted in 2003, and the final agreement was formally signed on June 18, 2006. Officials said that the resumption of border commerce will assist to lessen the area's economic isolation.

Education Relations

In 2006, China and India negotiated a comprehensive agreement for educational cooperation known as the Education Exchange Programme. According to the terms of this agreement, 25 students will each receive a government scholarship to attend an accredited higher education institution in the country of the other side. India awards 25 scholarships via an entity called the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. A revised EEP was agreed during the Honourable Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's visit to China in May 2015. The same enables greater cooperation in the field of vocational education as well as improved collaboration between institutions of higher learning. Chinese students are also offered scholarships each year to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan in Agra. As part of this scheme, eight Chinese students were selected to study in Agra in 2015–16.

In 2010, the Central Board of Secondary Education decided to include Chinese to its curriculum as a foreign language. A Memorandum of Understanding between Central CBSE and the Confucius Institute was signed in August 2012, and it called for the exchange of academic personnel, instructors, and trainees as well as details on the methodology and organization of teaching Mandarin Chinese as a second language in Indian classrooms. According to this MoU, the first batch of 22 Chinese teachers worked in specific CBSE schools from January 2014 to January 2016 for a period of two years. Due to the two nations' cooperation in the field of education, there are now more Indian students studying in China. 12998 Indian students studied a variety of courses during the academic year 2014–2015 at various Chinese institutions. In a similar vein, there are around 2000 Chinese students enrolled in various educational institutions in India [8], [9].

Trilateral Cooperation

The concept of trilateral cooperation between Russia, India, and China started to take form in the 1990s. The three countries' ties have significantly improved since that time. The track one and a half conversation, which is essentially an unofficial gathering of the official authorities acting in an unofficial capacity to negotiate or support accords, was started by the meeting of the foreign ministers of India, Russia, and China. As a consequence, the leaders of the three countries held a summit. Since 2001, a range of officials and academics from the three countries have met multiple times to collaborate in a variety of fields. Energy security, commerce, and the economy are some of the key areas where India, Russia, and China have chosen to work together. Concerning non-proliferation and disarmament problems, all three countries take them very seriously. Additionally, the three countries have resolved to investigate the issue of climate change and are going to take steps to raise awareness of the problem of resource depletion and solutions.

India, Russia, and China certainly vary from one another, yet they all have a wide range of interests. All three countries are in favour of multilateralism and share the vision of a multipolar global order. India, Russia, and China place emphasis on the need for democratisation of international relations and the creation of an impartial international order. They both have the same opinions on terrorism. A regional cooperation system, which would aid in resolving several problems facing the globe today, such as globalisation and the financial crisis, is seen to be necessary by India, Russia, and China.

Brazil, Russia, India and China and Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Brazil, Russia, India, and China, or BRIC, is a commonly used term in economics. These nations now have the distinction of having sizable economies that provide capital as well as products and services in equal measure to the global economy. Potential consumer markets are also thought to exist in these nations. Regarding the size of their economies, all four nations are seen as being on level with one another. Even South Africa has recently been included in this list. Together, the populations of these five nations account for 40% of the world's people today. Additionally, these nations account for around 25% of the global GDP in PPP terms.

Every BRICS member may boast a variety of successes in the area of agriculture as far as accomplishments go. The use of advanced agricultural technology made possible by the green revolution has significantly enhanced food production in these nations and permitted substantial global developments in the agricultural industry. Utilizing cutting-edge agricultural technology to ensure global food security is now vital due to the deteriorating state of the agriculture and food industry and climate change. To guarantee that the capacity of agricultural technology increases, the BRICS members have promised to promote and strengthen the interchange of better technologies, human resources, and cutting-edge gear.

The presidents of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan created the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Shanghai in 2001. Essentially, it is an intergovernmental organization for mutual security. It was established in 1996 to settle boundary disputes between its members and maintain peace. China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan made up the first five members of the group, which was formerly known as the Shanghai Five. But Uzbekistan was joined in 2001, and the group's name was changed to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Five other nations have now joined the SCO. However, they only have observer status. Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia, and Pakistan are the five nations. As of 2007, SCO has successfully launched a number of initiatives in the industries of transport, telecommunications, and energy. The SCO has also been successful in forging ties with the UN. In order to promote mutual trust, equality, and benefit, SCO has labored. It has been beneficial in promoting tranquility and stability in the area [10].

India–United Kingdom Relations

Close and cordial relations exist between India and the UK. With the visit of British Prime Minister David Cameron to India in 2010, when the Enhanced Partnership for the Future was established, the bilateral relationship, which was elevated to a strategic partnership in 2004, was further solidified. Three times during his first tenure as prime minister, in 2010, February 2013, and again in November 2013, he travelled to India to reaffirm the UK government's commitment to advancing ties with that country. With the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UK from November 12–14, 2015, ties between the two oldest and greatest democracies reached new heights. The two Prime Ministers approved a Vision Statement outlining the basic values upon which the UK-India relationship is based and defined a path for further collaboration during the visit. The two Prime Ministers decided to establish a new Defence and International Security relationship to boost cooperation on defence and security, including cyber security, counterterrorism, and maritime security.

They also agreed to convene biannual PM-level summits to promote the relationship. They also released a Statement of Intent to expand bilateral collaboration into a worldwide partnership for development cooperation in third countries and adopted a Joint Statement on Energy and Climate Change. During the PM's visit to the UK, numerous significant steps in this sector strengthened the relationship between India and the UK economically. It was decided that the City of London, with its resources and experience, could play a significant role

in directing investments towards Indian infrastructure projects. In addition, numerous private sector organisations, including HDFC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, and Yes Bank, declared their aspirations to raise capital via the City of London. The Government of India announced its intention to issue the first Government-backed Rupee Bond in London. The two Prime Ministers held the first gathering of the reestablished India-UK CEO Forum. Between Indian and British businesses, transactions totaling more than £9.3 billion have been announced. It was agreed to create a fast-track mechanism to let the UK invest in India and to create an India-UK Partnership fund under the National Infrastructure Investment fund to help the world participate in Indian infrastructure projects via the City of London. The UK has shown interest in working with India to construct smart cities in Amravati, Pune, and Indore. The most recent high-level bilateral visits and interactions between the two sides took place in 2016, with UK Finance Minister Arun Jaitley travelling to the UK in January to attend the 8th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, UK NSA travelling to India on January 18, UK Immigration Minister James Brokenshire travelling to India from February 16 to February 19, and UK PM's Special Envoy for Infrastructure Alo visiting India from February 16 to February 19.

Institutionalized Dialogues: There are several avenues for bilateral communication between India and the UK, spanning a variety of topics including politics, commerce, education, science, and technology. The important ones are the Joint Economic and Trade Committee at the Commerce Minister level, the Strategic Dialogue at the NSA level, the Consultations of the Foreign Office at the level of the Foreign Secretary, the Defence Consultative Group at the level of the Defence Secretary, the Cyber and Counter-Terrorism Dialogues at the level of Senior Officials, and other thematic dialogues between the two Foreign Offices.

Inter-Parliamentary Contacts

India and the UK have strong parliamentary ties. In each of the two main political parties, there are Friends of India Groups. On ties with India, there is an All-Party Parliamentary Group. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has hosted parliamentary discussions as well.

Trade

UK is one of India's main trade partners, and in the top 25 trading partners list for 2014–15, it came in at number 18. Two-way goods trade in 2014–15 was US\$14.33 billion, down 9.39% from 2013–14, according released by the Department of Commerce. The UK's percentage of India's international commerce decreased from 2.07% in 2013–14 to 1.89% in 2014–15. Garments and textiles, machinery and equipment, petroleum products, footwear and leather, manufactures of metals, gems and jewelry, engineering goods, transport equipment and components, spices, medications and pharmaceuticals, and marine items are among India's top exports to the UK. Machinery and equipment, ores and metal scraps, precious and semiprecious stones, silver, metals, aircraft parts, beverages and alcoholic beverages, engineering products, other professional instruments besides electronics, non-ferrous metals, and chemicals are the main imports from the UK to India.

Services

As per UK's Office for National Statistics, India-UK bilateral trade in services in the calendar year 2014 amounted to approximately £2.5 billion. India's exports to the UK in services in the calendar year 2013 amounted to £1.5 billion and India's imports from the UK in services in the calendar year 2014 amounted to £975 million.

Investment

With a total equity investment in India of US \$22.56 billion, the UK is the third biggest foreign investor after Singapore and Mauritius. For the period between April 2000 and September 2015, UK accounted for around 9% of total foreign direct investment into India, placing it top among the G20 nations. Over the last five years, foreign direct investment has decreased from US\$7.8 billion in 2011–12 to US\$1.4 billion in 2014–15. One of the main source markets for FDI projects in the UK is still India. According to the 2014/15 Inward Investment Annual Report published by UK Trade and Investment, India conducted 122 FDI projects in the UK in 2014–15, a rise of 65% over the previous year, making it the country's third biggest source of FDI and creating over 9,000 new employments. The value of Indian FDI into the UK increased considerably between 2004 and 2013, going from £164 million to £1.9 billion, according to the UK Office for National Statistics. The UK draws more investments from India than the whole EU.

Economic Dialogue

Institutional interactions between the two nations are based on bilateral frameworks like the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee and the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. The agreement between the finance ministers of the two nations to develop the economic and financial ties between India and the UK led to the formal establishment of the India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue in February 2005. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne co-chaired the 8th India-UK EFD, which looked at new opportunities for collaboration in the financial services industry. The Dialogue included topics such as Financial Services, Infrastructure Finance, Macroeconomic Risks and Policy Responses, and Global Economic Challenges.

The UK government has promised to assist India in completing significant infrastructure projects in a number of crucial fields, including smart cities, renewable energy, and railroads, all of which are essential for India's future economic development. The idea of Indian corporations issuing Rupee Bonds in London was welcomed by both India and the UK, and it was decided that the Indian Railway Finance Corporation would issue the first such public sector issuance. Both parties announced significant shared commitments to high-profile Fin-Tech trade missions between the two countries and significant moves towards UK Fin-Tech businesses assisting with the delivery of digital infrastructure, and both sides pledged to significantly improve relations between the main Fin-Tech communities in India and Britain.

India Covering Priority Areas Like Access to Finance for Micro-Enterprises:

It was determined that the Partnership will concentrate on the following work-streams during the most recent India-UK Financial Partnership meeting, which was held in London on November 2, 2015. Corporate Bond Market Development, Cross-Border Provision of Financial and Insurance Services, Pensions, Infrastructure Financing, Financial Inclusion, Internationalization of the Rupee, Improving Financial Training and Qualification, and Divestments are some of the areas that need attention. A business-driven institutional structure known as the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee was founded on January 13, 2005, with the goal of forging a strategic economic partnership. Under the direction of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills, JETCO delegations meet yearly and alternately in Delhi and London. On January 19, 2015, the 10th JETCO meeting took place in London, where industry and government representatives came together for fruitful discussions in three working groups organized around the topics of advanced manufacturing and engineering, smart cities and technological collaboration, and education and skill development.

Education

The bilateral partnership between India and the UK places a high priority on education. With the creation of bilateral mechanisms like the Newton-Bhabha Fund, Scholarship programmes, Joint Working Group on Education, India-UK Education Forum, UK-India Education and Research Initiative, and the UK-India Education and Research Initiative during the last ten years, the relationship has significantly improved. These announcements on education were made during the Prime Minister's visit to the UK in November 2015:

- a) 2016 would be the UK-India year of Education, Research and Innovation.
- b) Virtual partnerships would be initiated at the school level to enable young people of one country to experience the school system of the other country and develop an understanding of the culture, traditions and social and family systems.
- c) UK's plans for 25,000 UK students to go to India through the Generation UK India program by 2020, including 1000 UK interns with Tata Consultancy Services in India by 2020
- d) Launch of the 3rd phase of the UK India Education and Research Initiative.
- e) Commitment to achieving mutual recognition of UK and Indian qualifications
- f) Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sajid Javid and the Minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson visited Delhi, Hyderabad,

From December 9–11, 2015, Vice Chancellors from the Universities of Birmingham, Warwick, Nottingham, and Leicester travelled to Mumbai and Bangalore. During the visit, the Human Resource Development Minister, top Indian officials and professors, school and college administrators, education agents, students, corporate organizations, and the media attended an event to launch the 2016 UK-India Year of Education, Research, and Innovation.

Cultural Linkages

As a result of their shared history, India and the UK have strong and wide-ranging cultural ties. The mainstreaming of Indian culture and the incorporation of Indian food, films, languages, religion, philosophy, and performing arts have occurred gradually. Involving the Indian Diaspora, British organizations, and individuals, a number of Indian cultural organisations in the UK actively promote Indian culture. The Nehru Centre, the cultural arm of the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom, was founded in 1992 and is now one of ICCR's premier cultural institutions overseas. Additionally, India and the UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation in October 2014 at the ministerial level. It is in force until the end of October 2019. Both Prime Ministers stated that a UK-India Year of Culture will be held in 2017 to honour our close cultural relations and commemorate the 70th anniversary of Indian Independence during the PM's visit to the UK in November 2015. Additionally, they pledged assistance for the archive collections stored jointly at the British Library and the National Archives of India.

Indian Diaspora

With 1.5 million individuals of Indian descent in the UK, or almost 1.8% of the population and 6% of the GDP, the India Diaspora in the UK is one of the biggest ethnic minority populations in the nation, according to the 2011 census. Over 60,000 people of Indian descent attended a community greeting held on November 13, 2015, at Wembley Stadium, during the visit of the Prime Minister to the UK. The British Prime Minister and the Honourable PM both spoke

during the event. The Mission jointly sponsored Independence Day events with the assistance of important local leaders and Indian organisations on August 16, 2015, and they were a great success, drawing more than 12,000 people. On January 9, 2016, the Mission held the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas-2016, which included a live video chat with the External Affairs Minister. On January 9, 2016, a presentation/reception was conducted, and over 150 eminent members of the community were present. In order to move the India-UK relationship forward, the Mission is still in contact with the Indian Diaspora.

DISCUSSION

Given its historical, cultural, and geopolitical significance, India's international relations have garnered a lot of attention. India has built and maintained diplomatic connections with several nations throughout the globe over the years, forming alliances that cut across the fields of politics, economics, security, and culture. These connections have a significant effect on regional dynamics as well as India's position and influence on the world stage. India engages with other countries, from close neighbours to large international powers, reflecting its pursuit of strategic interests, support of regional stability, and encouragement of economic progress. India's connections with other nations in the context of international politics are characterized by a complex strategy that balances its own national objectives with the tenets of non-alignment and strategic autonomy. India has actively engaged in several multilateral organisations, including the World Trade organization, the United Nations, and BRICS, among others, and has had a substantial impact on the development of international policy on a variety of topics, such as trade, climate change, and counterterrorism. Economically speaking, ties between India and other nations have significantly improved recently. With partnerships and collaborations being formed across industries including technology, manufacturing, and services, the nation has become a significant destination for foreign direct investment. Bilateral trade agreements have promoted stronger economic cooperation, fostering mutual growth and development. Examples include the Strategic Partnership between India and the United States and the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

In the area of security, India has collaborated with a number of nations to bolster its defense capabilities, promote regional stability, and address global issues. With the help of important allies, defense cooperation agreements, joint military drills, and information sharing procedures have been set up, enhancing India's security posture and fostering regional peace and stability. Additionally, India's cultural diplomacy has been crucial in developing intercultural dialogue and advancing its soft power internationally. India has strengthened its cultural links and made a point of showcasing its rich past to the international community via programs like the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indian festivals and events overseas, and educational exchanges. Even if India's connections with other nations have significantly improved and cooperated, difficulties and complexity still exist. Border conflicts, commercial imbalances, and conflicting geopolitical interests are a few problems that can affect bilateral ties. However, India continues to be strong in its commitment to negotiation, diplomacy, and peaceful conflict resolution, reflecting its conviction in promoting a global order based on norms.

CONCLUSION

Finally, India's international contacts are a key tenet of its foreign policy and global participation. India has worked to advance regional stability, further its own national goals, and solidify its standing on the international arena via strategic alliances, economic partnerships, and cultural exchanges. India's dedication to communication, collaboration, and nonviolent dispute resolution is strong despite obstacles and complexity. India's involvement with other

nations will continue to affect its trajectory and contribute to a more connected and affluent globe as it navigates the difficulties of international relations. India works to create bridges of understanding and collaboration, building long-lasting ties that transcend boundaries and contribute to world peace and prosperity by harnessing its rich history, cultural variety, and economic potential.

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CHAPTER 8

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIA'S POLICY TOWARDS SAARC COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT:

India's policy towards the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. SAARC is a regional organization comprising eight member states, including India, aimed at promoting regional cooperation and addressing common challenges in South Asia. India, as a major regional power, plays a crucial role in shaping the dynamics within SAARC. This chapter analyzes India's objectives, strategies, and key initiatives towards SAARC countries, highlighting India's pursuit of regional integration, economic cooperation, and security collaborations. It also discusses the challenges and opportunities that India encounters in its policy towards SAARC countries, taking into account the complex bilateral relations and geopolitical dynamics in the region. By examining India's approach to SAARC, this chapter offers insights into India's broader foreign policy priorities and its vision for regional cooperation in South Asia.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Relations, Economic Cooperation, Foreign Policy, Geopolitical Dynamics, Regional Cooperation, Security Collaborations.

INTRODUCTION

The South Asian region's regional dynamics are significantly shaped by India's stance towards the SAARC member nations. India's attitude to the SAARC nations as a significant player in the area reflects its strategic goals, economic interests, and desire of regional integration. Eight member states make up SAARC, which offers a forum for fostering cooperation and tackling shared issues that South Asian countries confront. This introduction examines India's strategy towards SAARC nations, looking at its goals, plans, major actions, and the possibilities and difficulties it has in promoting regional collaboration. Understanding India's involvement in SAARC can help one better comprehend its foreign policy objectives and its vision for a successful and cooperative South Asia. Understanding India's connections with its other neighbors is essential to fully comprehending its foreign policy. Learn about India's relationships with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan in this section [1].

i. Indo-Afghanistan Relations

The Republic of India and the Islamic State of Afghanistan established bilateral connections, and these relationships have long been regarded as cordial and robust. In the 1980s, India was the only nation in South Asia to recognize the Soviet-backed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. However, during the Afghan civil wars and the Taliban's rule in the 1990s, ties between India and Afghanistan began to deteriorate. India was in Favor of toppling the Taliban regime. In fact, it made its presence known by generously donating humanitarian and rebuilding supplies. The Afghan Foreign Ministry said that India was a brother country and that relations between the two countries could not be impeded by any foe in the wake of the

2008 bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Pakistan is in charge of the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Kashmir, which borders Wakhan, although India asserts that it is their border with Afghanistan.

The North-West Frontier Province, which until 1947 belonged to British India and is now ruled by the Indian Congress Party, has a border with Afghanistan. Pashtuns who actively participated in the Indian independence struggle made up a significant portion of the inhabitants of the region. However, conditions significantly altered after Partition in 1947, and NWFP became Pakistan. However, the Republic of India and modern-day Afghanistan continued to have cultural and economic ties. Afghans love Indian music and movies, but Indians are also huge fans of Afghan carpets and dried fruits. For the most of their separate histories, both nations have had cordial ties with one another. Additionally, they have collaborated in their own issues with Pakistan. In April 2007, Afghanistan became one of SAARC's eight full members after being granted full membership by India [2].

ii. Saur Revolution

Numerous changes occurred in Afghanistan in 1979, and Soviet forces invaded the country to support the Saur Revolution. A power battle between M. Amin's opponents and the two factions of the Afghan revolution, the Khalq and the Parcham, caused internal divisions. While in other regions of Afghanistan, which borders Pakistan, a revolt was also led by mullahs, qazis, landowners, and tribal chiefs. Taraki, the president in office, was deposed by Amin, who was then killed by Babrak Karmal. The Soviet forces invaded Afghanistan as a result of this miscommunication and claimed that the Afghan government had welcomed them. Insurgents received significant material and armed support from the surrounding districts, which added to the complexity of the situation. A big number of Afghan refugees moved to Pakistan as a consequence of this complex circumstance. In addition to serving as refugee camps, the camps established in Pakistan served as military outposts in Afghanistan. For the first time, India was encircled by powerful nations, posing a grave danger to its security. Except for the Bangladesh Crisis, it was a more perilous condition than India had experienced in the years before following independence.

India's strategy needed to be smart, intricate, and in line with its historical views and conventions. India's greatest national interests were promoted in conformity with its fundamental principles, which was a nearly difficult feat [3], [4]. In India, where the government of Indira Gandhi had taken office over three years earlier in the midst of political turbulence and was beset by a plethora of both domestic and foreign issues, the Afghanistan strategy was caught off guard. Not all the greatest solutions were offered right away. The initial speech of the newly elected administration in the UN Security Council caused some trembling excitement and sought to convey that India had no objections to the entry of Soviet soldiers into Afghanistan. Many of the misconceptions emerged during the transition due to uncertainty, but right away the direction of the policy towards this area became more evident.

India was confronted with the challenge of withdrawing foreign soldiers from Afghanistan while also ending other forms of foreign engagement, such as the provision of weapons and supplies to Afghan insurgent groups. Naturally, there were differences of opinion within the upper class, and many believed that the Soviet forces' departure was the main factor influencing the situation and that everything else was thus incidental. Some people in the society felt that India had no desire to operate in a situation where the Kabul administration was set to be replaced by extremist fundamentalists or members of the communal right, who were supported by Pakistan. It was unable to plan for the possibility of a pro-Pakistan, pro-US, and pro-China administration. The power-sharing partnership of the landlord, the mullah, and the qazi was

not a very appealing choice [5], [6].

It is without question that Soviet forces in Afghanistan should have been evacuated. India vehemently opposes the deployment of foreign soldiers in any other nation. India did, however, recognise the claim that the Kabul Government had asked the Soviet Union to deploy soldiers to assist in quelling the local revolutionary forces. According to India, a nation had the right to request assistance. However, India insisted on several occasions that the Soviet soldiers should leave Afghanistan. India likewise urged the immediate cessation of all other sorts of international involvement. Then-External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao said, Our position regarding Afghanistan is well-known, in a statement to the Lok Sabha on June 12, 1980. We oppose the establishment of foreign bases or military in another nation. As a result, in our opinion, Afghanistan should continue to be a sovereign, independent, and non-aligned country. Additionally, Afghanistan should be guaranteed that outside influence and involvement would stop.

These objectives could not be met in the absence of a comprehensive political agreement. India has to make an effort to make such a settlement a reality. Perhaps it was not entirely random that a political settlement could only be acknowledged as the sole answer to the complex situation in South West Asia after India mapped out an alternative path of action. A political solution was emphasized in the months that followed, which prompted many high-level trips to India. Giscard D'Estaing, the president of France at the time, hosted the first high-level visit in January 1980. He received recognition from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for the situation's rationality and her support for a political solution. Kurt Waldheim, the then-UN Secretary General, also urged Indira Gandhi to defuse the tension and restrain uncontrollable responses in order to prevent the action-counteraction syndrome, which would have led to a more acrimonious competition between superpowers.

Indira Gandhi said in a public address that India and the Soviet Union had previously discussed the issue of military withdrawal. If Pakistan ceased to train terrorists and dispatch them into Afghan territory, the Soviet Union said, the soldiers would be removed as soon as possible. The Soviet Union frequently said that only at the invitation of the Afghan government at the time did their forces enter Kabul. However, the request was met with an increase in rebel activity as well as external threats. At several international gatherings, including the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit, India's stance on the evacuation of Soviet soldiers was reiterated [7].

Even Pakistan said that it was prepared to pursue a political course of action, and over time, the notion of a political resolution came very close to being accepted. Under the sponsorship of the UN Secretary General, negotiations then began. It was acknowledged that the problem was exceedingly complicated and that finding a solution would not be straightforward or simple. Although the then-Indian Foreign Secretary, R. D. Sathe, claimed in a statement to the media that the process to resolve the situation in Afghanistan had already started and was nearing solution, no such rapid developments could really be seen in the objectives of the powers and concerning states like Pakistan, China, the US, USSR, and others. Indira Gandhi told a foreign reporter in December 1980 that she did not predict any rapid progress. The Soviet forces would not have left Afghanistan if a fuss was not made.

Due to ongoing tensions and issues with Pakistan, the newly democratically elected Afghan government increased its ties with India. Pakistan was thought to be protecting and aiding the Taliban. India currently pursues a strategy of tight coordination with Afghanistan to strengthen it as a regional force and limit its adversary Pakistan, which still provides assistance to the Islamic insurgents in Kashmir valley and other regions of India. Furthermore, with a commitment of more than US \$2.2 billion for rehabilitation, India is the country with the

greatest investment in Afghanistan [8].

India and the world community backed the coalition government that would take over Afghanistan after the Soviet military troops left in 1989, but these ties and connections came to an end when a new civil war broke out in that nation. Afghanistan's Taliban government, an Islamist group sponsored by Pakistan, took control. Only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates recognised the Taliban authority. The Taliban and Afghanistan became a security danger to the Indian government as a result of the emergence of Islamism in Afghanistan and the expansion of the Afghan Mujahideen's insurgency in Indian-administrated Kashmir. India, which is regarded as the country where Buddhism originated, was outraged and protested vehemently when the Taliban destroyed the statues to the Buddha in Bamiyan. In 1999, the Taliban and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence were accused of aiding them when Indian Airlines Flight 814 was hijacked by Pakistani Muslim ISI operatives and landed and remained in Kandahar, Afghanistan. India became one of the coalition's most important backers in its fight against the Taliban. India and Afghanistan's relations during the Taliban rule deteriorated significantly. Such a regime will never have the support of India.

Relations between India and Afghanistan after the Collapse of the Taliban

India provided the coalition troops with information and other sorts of assistance during the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. India reestablished diplomatic relations with the newly installed democratic government after the Taliban were overthrown, and it sent help and took part in the rebuilding operations. Up to this point, India has donated between 650 and 750 million dollars in humanitarian and economic relief. The Border Roads Organization of the Indian Army is building a road in the isolated Afghan region of Nimroz. India's assistance and cooperation extends to the restoration of air routes, the construction of power plants, investments in the health and educational sectors, and assistance in the training of Afghan diplomats, civil workers, and police. India is also interested in establishing gas, oil, and electrical pipelines in Afghanistan. Government of India scholarships are also offered to Afghan students.

In order to combat Islamic radicals, India and Afghanistan have strengthened military and strategic collaboration. 200 troops from India were stationed at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police to protect Indian people after a Taliban insurgent killed an Indian person there in November 2005. During Hamid Karzai's visit to India from April 9 to 13, 2006, three Memorandums of Understanding were signed between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Afghan National Standardization Authority to strengthen cooperation in the areas of rural development, education, and standardization. When Afghan Foreign Minister Dr. Spanta visited India between June 29 and July 1, 2006, India and Afghanistan struck an agreement allocating 50 million US dollars to encourage bilateral commerce. India increased its contribution to Afghanistan by 150 million dollars to 750 million dollars in the same year. India backed Afghanistan's application to join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation as well.

One of the bloodiest assaults in Kabul and the first after the collapse of the Taliban in 2001 occurred on 7 July 2008, when a suicide vehicle bomber targeted the Indian embassy. 58 people were killed and 141 injured in the attack. This incident happened when political counsellor V. Venkateswara Rao and senior Indian Army official Brigadier Ravi Datt Mehta drove through the embassy gates. Unfortunately, the explosion claimed the lives of both men. The ISI of Pakistan, according to the Afghan authorities, was engaged in the assault. India pledged an additional 450 million US dollars for current and future projects in Afghanistan during the 15th SAARC conference in Colombo. Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, visited New

Delhi in August 2008. Through this visit, the two nations' bilateral ties were further reinforced, and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised to provide further help to Afghanistan. On October 18, 2009, a little over a year after the first incident, a vehicle bomb targeted the Indian Embassy in Kabul. At least 17 persons died in this incident. Since a military triumph was impossible, the US and its allies altered course and extended a peace offer to the Taliban, posing further difficulties for India. As a result of its political investments in supporting the Karzai administration, Raghav Sharma, Research Officer at IPCS, said in a Special Report released by the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi that With a potential return of Taliban in Kabul, New Delhi's options will shrink [9].

Sharma said that finding the ideal balance was India's urgent issue. The breakdown of Pakistan's governmental apparatus in its border area highlights the situation in Afghanistan and brings the danger posed by extremists closer to home. Sharma said that India would need to make sure that its prior assistance for the Tajik-dominated Northern alliance against the Pashtun-dominated Taliban did not operate as a propaganda weapon opposing its objectives in order to achieve an effective state policy. India should actively participate in enhancing state governance capabilities, according to Sharma. By sharing expertise and experiences of grassroots government, like as the Lok Adalats and Panchyati Raj system, it should aim to gain the trust of the Afghan people. He believed that India might help Afghanistan, which was suffering from the effects of the drought, by offering assistance in the form of indigenous farming and irrigation practices. In his report, he recommends that India assist the Senlis Council's 'poppy for medicines' scheme to stop the illicit poppy trade. Additionally, this would provide India the chance to discuss their own licencing of the growing of poppies.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two parties, among other things, calls for assistance to help Afghanistan rebuild its institutions and infrastructure, educational and technical assistance to help rebuild Afghan capacity in various areas, encouraging investment in Afghanistan's natural resources, and duty-free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan's exports. support for an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned, multifaceted, and inclusive process of peace and reconciliation, as well as arguing for the necessity for the international community to make a continuous and long-term commitment to Afghanistan. India hosted the Senior Officials Meeting of the Heart of Asia nations in New Delhi in January 2014, and with assistance from FICCI, India organized the sixth Regional Technical Group in New Delhi in November 2015. India is the leading nation for Trade, Commerce and Investment CBM of the Heart of Asia Process [10].

DISCUSSION

Analysis of India's strategic goals, actions, and difficulties in promoting regional cooperation are part of the debate surrounding India's policies towards SAARC nations. First and foremost, India's strategy recognizes the potential for collective growth and development and aspires to promote regional integration among SAARC member nations. Through programs like trade liberalization, investment facilitation, and infrastructure development projects, India wants to increase economic cooperation. India's goal to maximize the region's economic potential and strengthen South Asia's connections is what motivates these initiatives. Second, security cooperations to address shared risks and problems are a part of India's strategy towards SAARC nations. India aspires to promote collaboration on topics including counterterrorism, border control, and information sharing given the challenging security situation in South Asia. India wants to improve regional stability and reduce security threats by collaborating closely with SAARC nations. India's approach to the SAARC nations, however, too has its share of difficulties. Existence of protracted bilateral conflicts between member nations is one such difficulty that might impede the advancement of regional cooperation projects.

India's strategic goals may also be impacted by regional power struggles and geopolitical realities. For India, coordinating diverse goals among SAARC nations and balancing its own strategic interests with those of other member states offers a challenging job. Despite these obstacles, there are considerable potential for regional cooperation provided by India's policies towards SAARC nations. Greater understanding and trust between SAARC countries may be fostered via improved connectivity, enhanced people-to-people encounters, and cultural diplomacy activities. Additionally, India's status as a significant economic force opens doors for greater trade, investment, and technological collaboration, which will lead to shared prosperity. India's approach to the SAARC nations reflects its goals for regional integration, economic partnership, and security cooperation. India continues to look at ways to expand cooperation within SAARC despite obstacles including bilateral conflicts and geopolitical factors. India wants to play a key role in determining the direction of South Asian regional cooperation and contributing to the general growth and stability of the SAARC nations by navigating these complications.

CONCLUSION

In sum, India's SAARC strategy is very important for influencing regional dynamics and fostering collaboration in South Asia. India aspires to promote economic cooperation, improve security cooperation, and solve shared difficulties faced by SAARC member nations via its strategic goals, initiatives, and efforts towards regional integration. India is looking for ways to improve regional collaboration and shared prosperity despite obstacles including bilateral conflicts and geopolitical complexity. India aims to further the idea of a united and thriving South Asia by actively interacting with SAARC nations. India's SAARC strategy will continue to impact the dynamics of the region and promote a more cohesive and cooperative South Asian society as it changes.

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CHAPTER 9

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

The Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy has been a subject of significant interest and concern in the international community. This study aims to analyze the complex dynamics and evolving nature of the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The policy framework governing these relations is examined, taking into account historical, political, and socio-cultural factors that have shaped the interaction between the two neighboring countries. Various aspects, including security cooperation, trade and economic ties, cultural exchanges, and diplomatic engagements, are explored to provide a comprehensive understanding of the bilateral relationship. Furthermore, the study highlights the challenges and opportunities that exist in the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, such as border management, terrorism, regional stability, and the role of external actors. By examining the policy approach adopted by Pakistan and Afghanistan, this research aims to shed light on the strategies and initiatives undertaken to foster mutual trust, enhance cooperation, and address the multifaceted issues affecting their bilateral ties. The findings of this study will contribute to the broader discourse on regional diplomacy and provide valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and analysts interested in the Pakistan and Afghanistan relationship.

KEYWORDS:

Afghanistan, Bilateral Relations, Diplomatic Engagements, Foreign Policy, Pakistan Regional Stability, Security Cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan sees a danger to itself in the growing influence of India in Afghanistan. Pakistan's security is at danger because of Indian military stationed in the Afghan border areas. Pakistan has often claimed that the Indian consulates in Afghanistan provide protection to Indian organizations carrying out covert activities against Pakistan. Pakistan has accused the Indian mission in Afghanistan of facilitating the flow of counterfeit Pakistani cash over Afghan borders. Although ties between India and Afghanistan are friendly, it would be beneficial for all three countries to work together so that all three may gain from it. The whole South Asian area might be affected by even the smallest sign of instability in the ties between these three countries. India and Pakistan both have nuclear weapons. They both rank among South Asia's dominant countries. They would thus benefit if they concentrated on enhancing their relationships and fostering confidence in the South Asian area [1].

Following the SAARC conference in Colombo, Afghan President Hamid Karzai made an important trip to India. He was the first to attribute the assault on the Indian Embassy in Kabul on July 7 to the Pakistani espionage agency. Although Yousuf Raza Gilani, the prime minister of Pakistan, originally denied these accusations, he promised to launch an impartial inquiry to determine how the ISI was engaged when Manmohan Singh brought up the matter at the SAARC summit. The Taliban-led insurgency was allegedly supported by Pakistan's intelligence services, according to Afghanistan. It often complained that terrorists

headquartered in Pakistan violated international boundaries and carried out terrorist activities in Afghanistan. There have been sponsored organized assaults not only on the Afghan government but also on Indian forces. Soon, increasing conflicts in Afghanistan were being caused by militant organizations that primarily operated in Jammu and Kashmir, such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Lashkar-e-Tayiba. It was concerning that Kashmir and Afghanistan were engaged in a proxy war. Operating for more than three decades, ISI [2].

Pakistan has been let down by the cordial ties between India and Afghanistan. The Karzai administration continued to deepen connections with India and granted permission for Indian consulates to open in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif. In order to enable the building of dams in the northeastern Afghan province of Kunar, Afghanistan may also seek to India for assistance in training its new army. PM Manmohan Singh has pledged support for Afghanistan's efforts to create a peaceful and affluent society during Karzai's visit. The rising sway India has over Afghanistan irritates the ISI. In actuality, Pakistan's fight with India includes the Afghan war. There has been conflict between India and Pakistan for many years, both directly and indirectly. Additionally, Pakistan's eastern port of Karachi has been bypassed by trade routes started by India, Russia, and Iran. Plans for the building of rail and road connections between ports in Western Afghanistan and Iran, on the Arabian Sea, are also being developed by Iran and India.

The poppy is another element that links Taliban, ISI, and Pakistan-supported terrorist groups in Afghanistan. The region closest to Afghanistan's border with Pakistan is also the one where poppy production is most prevalent. Poppy growing is profitable for the farmer, the Taliban, and the corrupt government. As a consequence, it gives the Taliban unrestricted resources to fight the US and hinders the establishment of the Karzai administration. The production of poppies in southern Afghanistan obstructs development initiatives that get significant funding from India. It has been impossible for Pakistan to resist making an effort to lessen India's influence in Afghanistan [3].

Following the conflict between West Pakistan and East Pakistan following the general elections in 1971, under Yahya Khan's rule, Bangladesh was separated from Pakistan. India was a key player in the establishment of Mujibur Rehman's administration and the foundation of Bangladesh. Despite friendly ties in the beginning, there have been disputes around the 1975 building of the Farakka Barrage between the nations. On August 15, 1975, a group of military officers killed Mujibur Rehman, and as a result, Ziaur Rehman assumed control of the Bangladeshi government. Bangladesh would not exist today if it weren't for the courageous actions of Indira Gandhi and the sacrifices made by the Indian Jawans during the conflict that Pakistan started on December 3, 1971. In addition to assisting in Bangladesh's creation, India provided economic and military support as well as security guarantees to care for Bangladesh throughout its early years. The two countries had friendly ties for as long as Mujibur Rehman was alive. However, after his murder in 1975, the US-China-Pakistan axis started openly operating in Bangladesh and incited anti-India frenzy there.

However, the passage of time has brought about certain negative changes in Indo-Bangladesh ties, especially the propagation of anti-Indian propaganda by some sectors of the Bangla press and other entrenched interests. These sometimes-strained relations between India and Bangladesh. Particularly towards the conclusion of Mujib's reign, this unfavorable situation became to be of concern. Some academics even claim that Mujib's affinity with India contributed to the overthrow of his government in August 1975 [4]. During the last years of Mujib's rule, anti-Indian propaganda first appeared in Bangladesh as a result of the following factors:

- a) Existence of pro-Pakistan factions in Bangladesh.
- b) Internal opposition to Mujib's policies particularly to the centralization and concentration of authority into his own hands.
- c) The difference over Farakka Barrage issue.
- d) Rise of communalism in Bangladesh.
- e) The Pakistani and Chinese propaganda that India was having imperialistic designs over Bangladesh.
- f) The failure of the government of Bangladesh to effectively run the administration and check the spread of anti-India propaganda.
- g) The strong dissatisfaction in Bangladesh over the increased corruption shortage of essential commodities, particularly foodstuffs and uncontrolled smuggling on Indo-Bangladesh border.
- h) The strong criticism by the Indian Press of the role of opposition in Bangladesh, produced a strong reaction and gave rise to considerable opposition to the role of India in the sub-continent. In particular, this made Moulana Bhashani and his party a strong critic of India

Bangladesh and India both belong to the Indian subcontinent and have a long history of political, economic, and cultural development. India was a key factor in Bangladesh's separation from Pakistan. India recently offered support and collaboration amid natural disasters. India is Bangladesh's top exporter, and one of the main points of contention between the two countries is how they share their water resources, namely the Farakka Barrage problem. Following his election as president of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rehman travelled to India for the UNIDO Conference.

There, he met twice with the foreign minister and prime minister of India to address topics including the Farakka Barrage and the Indo-Bangladesh border. Ziaur Rehman was killed on May 30, 1981, in a military takeover, and Justice Abdus Sattar, the Vice President, became the presidency. Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, who later assumed the role of Chief Martial Law administrator, overthrew him on March 24, 1982, in another military coup because he was unable to provide a just government. He said that he will implement Mujibur Rehman's agenda with reference to South Asian nations and regional cooperation. The nation had a solid base for its foreign policy, which prioritized collaboration and goodwill with Islamic states [5]. Romesh Bhandari, the Indian foreign minister, travelled to Bangladesh on April 15th with a letter addressed to President Ershad from Rajiv Gandhi. The six unresolved concerns between the two nations that he covered there are as follows:

- a) Sharing of the Ganga and Teesta waters.
- b) Implementation of the 1974 boundary agreement and the transfer of the Tin Bigha corridor by India to Bangladesh.
- c) Determination of the ownership of South Talpatty island.
- d) Delineation of the maritime boundary.
- e) Erection of fences along the Indo-Bangladesh border
- f) The anti-India activities of the US-Britain-Pakistan axis in Bangladesh.

Reviewing the Indo-Bangladesh relationship throughout the time period indicates that a number of significant issues that had previously hampered the two nations' relations and had the potential to further deteriorate them were still present. No effective steps could be made to get rid of, or at least manage, these irritants. Fortunately, Bangladesh's leaders somewhat understood that keeping things tense with India was pointless. In his piece titled *Delhi and Deccan, New Beginning*, Rajendra Sareen expressed the opinion that there looked to be a positive shift in both nations' perspectives towards one another, which offered promise for the future growth of Indo-Bangladesh friendship and collaboration. According to current trends, both nations want to work together cooperatively and amicably, the author noted. It is obvious that India has a stake in Bangladesh's stability and economic growth [6].

One of the first nations to recognize the new state and develop diplomatic and commercial links with it was India. India generously contributed substantial sums to Bangladesh's economic rehabilitation shortly after the nation was founded. The Indo-Soviet deal of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation, which came to an end the previous year, served as the model for the 25-year deal that the two countries inked in 1972. Both nations vowed to increase global security and peace while opposing imperialism, racism, and colonialism. The two countries have negotiated a series of agreements in an effort to deepen their social, cultural, and economic ties. Similar to this, both parties agreed to work together in the realm of research and technology. The boundary difficulties between the two states were also peacefully resolved. The line between the two states had to be drawn in a way that protected the interests of both countries and treated both states fairly. After then, there were undoubtedly occasional boundary conflicts between the two nations, but overall, both exhibited a spirit of perfect tolerance towards one another, and their relations remained warm and peaceful.

The Farakka Barrage issue was left over from the Indo-Pakistani ties after Bangladesh was established, and it continued to irritate both India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh attempted to internationalize the conflict by bringing it up at the UN. India refused to ratify it, stating that doing so would make the problem worse and that a solution should be found via communication and collaboration between the two countries. Bangladesh ultimately decided to remove this matter from the UN. The sharing of the Ganga's waters is the most challenging issue between India and Bangladesh. As is well known, the Ganges River has its source in Gangotri and travels across India and Bangladesh in a south-eastern direction. 38 km south of Farakka, in West Bengal's Murshidabad District, is where its mainline bifurcates. The Padma stream joins the Brahmaputra and travels along the India-Bangladesh border before meeting the River Meghna and the Bay of Bengal, respectively. The Bhagirathi-Hoogly stream flows in the lower portions of West Bengal [7], [8].

The Ganga water dispute involves the sharing of freshwater between the two nations from mid-March to mid-May, when the Ganga's flow drops to a minimum of 55,000 cusecs, during the lean season from January to May. The fundamental issue is that Bangladesh only gets 15,000 cusecs, which is insufficient to satisfy its needs, if India withdraws 40,000 cusecs to maintain Calcutta Port. By extracting this greater volume of water, India causes a wide range of issues in Bangladesh. The issue at hand is how fairly the two states should divide their water resources.

New Moore Island, which is located between Bangladesh and India, is another issue. It is situated in the Bay of Bengal and ranges in size from 2 to 12 square kilometres. It is dependent on the ebbing and flowing of the tide. over 5,200 meters separate this island from the Indian coast and over 7,000 metres separate it from Bangladesh's shore. This island was initially seen by India in 1971, and the British Admiralty was informed of the discovery. It appeared on the Admiralty map as New Moore Island. India informed Bangladesh of the Island's existence

during maritime discussions between India and Bangladesh in 1974. India did not assert its possession of the island until 1979. The issue occurred when Bangladesh renamed the island South Talpatty after West Bengal referred to it as Purbasha. On this Island, the Indian flag was raised on March 12, 1980. At this point, Bangladesh claimed control of the area and declared New Moore to be a region under dispute. When Bangladesh protested to the Indian ship I.N.S. Sandhyak docking in island waters in May 1981, the situation quickly escalated. Despite being debated at many levels, the disagreement has not been settled. The problem was no longer relevant after the island was entirely buried in the water sometime in the early 2000s.

The issue of Chakma refugees affects the relations between India and Bangladesh as well. In the Indian state of Tripura, many migrants from Bangladesh have found asylum. Negotiations in 1994 resulted in the return of Chakma refugees from Tripura to Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill regions. In 1994, about 5,100 of these migrants were sent back home. Up until 1996, negotiations for the return of over 50,000 more Chakma refugees were ongoing. Every repatriation was done voluntarily. The Tin Bigha corridor controversy once again harmed the two nations' ties. The two Bangladeshi enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota are separated from the Bangladeshi district of Rangpur by Tin Bigha, a tiny portion of Indian territory. When Bangladeshi President Ershad and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi signed an agreement in 1982, it was intended to be resolved. The deal guaranteed Bangladesh's long-term lease on Indian Territory of Tin Bigha. Dahagram and Angorpota residents were happy to see this deal signed, but West Bengal residents were against it, making it impossible to put into effect since renting out Indian territory needed a constitutional modification. Additionally, a petition against the leasing of the Tin Bigha corridor was submitted to the Calcutta High Court in this respect.

A large exodus was caused by the flood of Bangladeshi refugees and the Assam issue, which led to significant issues between India and Bangladesh. A barbed wire fence along the border will be built by the Indian government at an estimated cost of 550 crores. Even while the Bangladeshi government initially supported the concept, it eventually declined to participate, which further soured relations between the two nations. The nations came to an agreement on the border problem after extensive discussions. This put an end to the matter, which had been open for over 20 years. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the current prime minister of Bangladesh and the daughter of Mujibur Rehman, has always supported India. She had previously held office from 1996 until 2001. When the Ganga waters sharing deal was signed in New Delhi on December 12, 1996, the relationships had improved. Both presidents decided to form a working group to tackle insurgency in India's North-Eastern region and the Chittagong Hill regions on the other side, and they hailed the dawn of a new era in mutual collaboration. Additionally, it was decided that urgent action would be taken to improve border administration and quell the North East insurrection.

In an editorial, The Tribune applauded the Treaty and characterised the development as a new chapter in relations that improved the chances of establishing a long-lasting Indo-Bangla friendship based on respect for each other's independence, dignity, and mutual benefit. According to a quote from the treaty, the two countries have 30 years to explore joint economic ventures, substantially increase trade, facilitate cultural and other exchanges at the grassroots level, and decide how to increase water flow in all other common rivers. Whether these goals would be accomplished relies largely on Bangladesh and the BNP's position towards India. India's exports to Bangladesh reached above 2000 crores in the years 1994–1995. Both a loan deal for 30 crores and an agreement to prevent double taxation have already been reached. India provides Bangladeshi staff with training facilities under the Technical Assistance programme. The most crucial platform for assisting South Asia economically is SAARC.

The choice to allow preferential commerce via SAPTA was probably going to boost economic cooperation between Bangladesh and India. As a result of the two countries' decision to begin negotiations on the Free Commerce Agreement, the key Joint Economic Council meeting between India and Bangladesh concluded with the news of significant progress towards boosting bilateral commerce. Since April 1999, there has been a land connection between Kolkata and Dhaka. It was determined that the Free Trade Standing Committee at the level of the Foreign Secretary would convene early in 2004 to assess the results of the first round of FTA negotiations. India has decided to extend the state-to-state credit of 200 crores already approved for a number of development projects in Bangladesh till the credit is fully used up as a sign of good neighbourly ties. Just before Hasina Wajed travelled to India, West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu made a visit to Dhaka. When he first saw the deal in the preliminary stage, Basu was not happy, but after it was guaranteed that there would be adequate water to maintain Calcutta port in excellent shape, he was happy. According to Basu, the deal would be advantageous for both Bangladesh and India. He believed that the water sharing agreement will make it possible to work out a deal for both countries' industries to use the Chittagong port [9], [10].

Fortunately, the Awami League has a very favourable stance towards India. Hasina Wajed criticised Pakistan's autocratic government and demanded the return of democracy. All of the main political parties in India, with the exception of the BJP, unanimously applauded the deal, albeit they did so with certain misgivings. Since the West Bengal government participated directly in the discussions, it has no reason to question the treaty's provisions. In the years to come, the pact might offer the relations between India and Bangladesh a stronger boost. There have, however, been several additional situations when Indo-Bangladesh relations have strained. On November 26, 2002, Yashwant Sinha, India's foreign minister, said that Bangladesh had become a haven for Indian militant organisations in the country's northeast. And he grumbled that the ISI's actions were centered at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. The fact that Bangladesh never explicitly denounced cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir also caused resentment in India.

The collaboration between different religions and cultures is another significant facet of Indo-Bangladesh relations. India and Bangladesh must take a proactive and decisive part in this effort to eradicate senseless hate that is motivated by a person's religion or culture. In this subcontinent, Hindus and Muslims coexisted peacefully for more than a millennium. They are now able to do so once again. The visit of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Hasina to India is universally regarded as a success. She said that it would take time to resolve the issues separating the two states. We would like India to be our friend as it was during our liberation war, she said. We should resolve our small internal political disputes and present a unified and informed mindset both internally and abroad when it comes to matters of national importance.

For a number of projects, including dredging work, the delivery of Broad-Gauge microprocessor-based locomotives and passenger coaches, and the construction of railway infrastructure, India has given a line of credit to Bangladesh in the amount of US\$ 800 million. Out of the \$200 million award, \$150 million has already been made available to Bangladesh in three installments for use in initiatives that are top priorities for that country. Cultural contacts between the people of two nations help to forge a strong connection given their shared history and lingua franca. Promoting interactions in the areas of music, theatre, art, painting, literature, etc. has received particular attention. The context for such encounters is a bilateral cultural exchange programme. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations was opened in Dhaka on March 11, 2010, to encourage cross-border cultural contacts. Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birthday and Kazi Nazrul Islam's 90th anniversary of

the publishing of his poem Bidrohi were both commemorated by both nations in 2011–12 with yearlong ceremonies.

ULFA and ISI

The ninth Parliamentary election was won by the Islamist Party Alliance, which is headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The ULFA re-established camps at Maijdi, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Mohangaon, Bhairab Bazaar, and Pulchari after this resounding victory. Additionally, its camps at Adampur, Banugashi, Jyantipur, Jayadepur, Shrimangal, and Cox's Bazar were reopened. 15 terrorist organisations had around 200 camps operating in Bangladesh by the end of 2003. Begum Khaleda Zia's BNP administration was charged of aiding Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence activities in the Northeast and supporting insurgencies there. By all indications, Bangladesh at the time provided diplomatic assistance that aided ISI operations in other regions of South Asia and permitted the use of its territory as a supply route for weapons used against India. Syed Ashraf Islam, the general secretary of the Awami League and the minister of local government for Bangladesh, said in January 2010 that he had documentation of a meeting between Pervez Musharraf and Anup Chetia, the chairman of the ULFA, in 2002. He said that Musharraf's hotel room was the location of the 90-minute meeting that Khaleda Zia's administration set up.

According to reports, the Pakistani High Commission in Bangladesh made it easier for ULFA commanders to travel to Karachi, from whence the ISI led them to the terrorist training facilities. According to rumours, the ULFA expressed their gratitude to Pakistan by standing behind it throughout the Kargil conflict. The ULFA seems to have allowed this weakened philosophy for military purposes when it asked Pakistan to free Assam. This just serves to demonstrate how military considerations are more significant than political considerations in ULFA's plans. On April 2, 2004, truckloads of weaponry bound for ULFA hideouts in northeast India were intercepted by Bangladesh Joint Forces. A little war may have been started as a result of the arm haul's size. According to reports, the package originated in Hong Kong and was then moved to smaller ships in Burma before being transported to Chittagong.

A change in policy towards the Northeast insurgency didn't occur until the Awami League came to power. India was accused by Bangladesh of organizing the Shanti Bahini to oppose the Bangladeshi government and aid the Chakma rebellion. Sheikh Hasina visited India after her second election to office. It was agreed that neither Bangladesh nor India would allow their territory to be used against the other. There has been an alleged ULFA assassination attempt on Sheikh Hasina during her first rule. In addition to a rebellion among the ranks of the Bangladeshi Rifles, radical Islamist elements have also infiltrated the military. Blind religiosity, the armed forces, and radical political groups might pose threats to the economic and political stability of Bangladesh.

DISCUSSION

Due to the complicated dynamics and constantly changing nature of the bilateral relationship between these two neighboring countries, the Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy has long been the subject of intensive examination and study. This discussion area tries to go further into important topics and shed light on this relationship's many facets. The historical setting that has influenced Pakistan and Afghanistan's relations throughout time is an important part of that policy. Their connection has been greatly impacted by their common past, cultural ties, and physical closeness. Understanding these underlying historical factors helps us better understand the possibilities and problems that have arisen in their bilateral relations. A key element of the Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is security cooperation. Both nations deal with serious security concerns, including as cross-border terrorism, insurgencies, and

problems with border control. The steps Pakistan and Afghanistan have made to address these common security problems are examined in this phase of the debate, including information sharing, cooperative military operations, and border control measures. It also examines the success of these cooperative projects and any room for improvement. Another crucial component of the Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is the development of trade and commercial connections. The socioeconomic growth and stability of both countries may be aided by increasing economic cooperation and establishing commercial links. The current trade agreements, investment potential, and obstacles impeding the expansion of bilateral commerce are all covered in this discussion part. Additionally, it evaluates the likelihood of enhancing economic cooperation and the significance of regional integration programmes. The Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy includes cultural exchanges and interpersonal connections heavily. A foundation for cultural understanding and connectedness is built on shared customs, languages, and historical connections.

This section covers the different projects and programmes designed to encourage cross-border tourism, academic partnerships, and cultural interactions. It also looks at how soft power diplomacy may be used to establish long-lasting relationships and increase mutual trust. The Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is greatly influenced by high-level diplomatic interactions and visits. This section examines the diplomatic initiatives done by the two nations to promote communication, settle differences, and forge agreement on significant regional and global concerns. It also looks at the possibilities and problems that come with diplomatic interactions, such as the influence of outside parties and the prospect of using mediation to resolve bilateral disputes. The discussion part offers a thorough study of Pakistan and Afghanistan's relations policy, covering a variety of topics including security cooperation, business and economic links, cultural exchanges, and diplomatic interactions. Policymakers, academics, and analysts may get a greater knowledge of the difficulties and potential in this bilateral relationship by looking at these factors, which will help them make more informed decisions and develop strategies for promoting mutual trust, stability, and collaboration.

CONCLUSION

The Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is a dynamic, multifaceted framework that takes into account a number of issues, opportunities, and problems. This research has offered a thorough examination of the bilateral links that exist between these two neighbours, illuminating important factors such the historical setting, security coordination, commercial and economic linkages, cultural exchanges, and diplomatic interactions. The results of this research emphasize the importance of historical elements in forming the connection between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Understanding the common past, cultural links, and close proximity to one another helps us better understand the difficulties and possibilities that have developed through time. Given the shared security difficulties that both Pakistan and Afghanistan are facing, security cooperation is emerging as a crucial element of the Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy. Although there is always space for improvement, efforts in information sharing, combined military operations, and border control have been vital in resolving these concerns. Increasing trade and commercial connections is essential for both countries' socioeconomic growth and stability. This report highlights the possibilities for extending economic cooperation and regional integration projects by examining current trade agreements, investment opportunities, and difficulties.

People-to-people interactions and cultural exchanges operate as communication and understanding conduits between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Building trust and developing enduring relationships may be facilitated by promoting cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and tourism. The Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is significantly

shaped by high-level diplomatic interactions and visits. The significance of discussion, conflict resolution, and consensus building is emphasised in the examination of diplomatic efforts made by both nations to improve bilateral relations. In summary, the Pakistan and Afghanistan Relations Policy is a complex framework that requires close consideration of socio-cultural, political, and historical aspects. Policymakers, academics, and analysts may help to promote mutual trust, stability, and collaboration between Pakistan and Afghanistan by addressing the issues and seizing the possibilities mentioned in this report. The two countries can work towards a more resilient and prosperous future by building on the foundations of security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, cultural understanding, and diplomatic engagements, which will benefit not only their own populations but also contribute to regional peace and stability.

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CHAPTER 10

AN ELABORATION OF THE INDO-MALDIVES RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

The Indo-Maldives relations, focusing on the dynamics, key areas of cooperation, and the evolving strategic partnership between India and the Maldives. Over the years, the relationship between these two neighboring nations has witnessed significant growth and diversification, encompassing various dimensions such as political, economic, security, and cultural cooperation. This chapter explores the historical context of their ties, highlighting the factors that have shaped their relationship. It also examines the current state of bilateral relations, highlighting key initiatives and agreements that have further deepened collaboration. The Indo-Maldives partnership is characterized by mutual respect, shared interests, and a common commitment to regional stability and development. The chapter also delves into the strategic significance of the Indo-Maldives relationship, considering its implications for both countries and the broader Indian Ocean region. It sheds light on the evolving geopolitical landscape and examines how India's strategic vision and the Maldives' India First policy have paved the way for enhanced cooperation. Additionally, the chapter explores areas of cooperation such as trade, investment, maritime security, counter-terrorism, climate change, and people-to-people exchanges, highlighting the achievements and potential for further growth. Lastly, it discusses the challenges and future prospects of the Indo-Maldives relations, emphasizing the need for sustained engagement, mutual trust, and continued efforts to deepen the multifaceted partnership. Overall, the chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the Indo-Maldives relations, offering insights into the strategic, economic, and cultural dimensions of this vital relationship in the Indian Ocean region.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Cooperation, Cultural Exchanges, Economic Partnership, Geopolitical Significance, India-Maldives Ties, Maritime Security.

INTRODUCTION

The Maldives are around 700 miles away from Sri Lanka and are situated south of India's Lakshadweep Islands in the Indian Ocean. Following the Maldives' liberation from British domination, diplomatic ties between the two countries were established. Since that time, strong strategic, military, economic, and cultural ties have grown between India and the Maldives. The Maldives has seen relations with India as a source of help as well as a counterbalance to Sri Lanka, which is close by and its main commercial partner. India has backed the Maldives' policy of keeping regional issues and struggles away from itself. The majority of the population of the Maldives is Muslim, and they are a fusion of southern Indian and southern Arabian genetic threads in terms of ethnicity. Divehi, which is rendered in Arabic script, is the official language. In the 12th century, Islam likely travelled from the Malabar Coast to these islands. The Sultan served as the political leader historically, and a theocratic type of government predominated. Maldives were never directly colonised by a Western nation. The British made it a protectorate from the late 19th to the middle of the 20th century, mainly for the use of the Gan Island as a naval station. The Portuguese had indirectly established their brief authority in the 16th century [1].

Internal alterations started to happen about 1932. The Sultan's role changed to that of an elected leader who receives assistance and advice from a legislature chosen by universal adult franchise. The Sultanate was eventually disbanded in 1965 following a nationwide vote, after an unsuccessful effort to do so in 1954. As the atoll supreme, a presidency was constituted. Ibrahim Nasir, a former prime minister, served as the nation's first president from 1965 until 1978. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom succeeded him in the position. He was chosen by the Majlis, a unicameral body of lawmakers. From March 8 to March 14, 1974, Ahmed Zaki, the prime minister of the Republic of the Maldives, paid a visit to India. He visited with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President V. V. Giri of India and spoke about bilateral concerns.

They also emphasised the need of regional collaboration amongst the nations in the region for the advancement of economic growth, peace, and stability. Indira and Zaki both agreed that India will provide facilities on a continuing basis for training Maldivian workers in academic and technological disciplines. The parties would thoroughly discuss further steps for economic collaboration. Zaki understood that the actions done by India to normalize the situation on the subcontinent were positive developments that would promote the peace and cooperation amongst all the nations in the area. The two presidents emphasized the need of fully implementing the UN Security Council resolutions from November 1967 and October 1973 in relation to the west Asian conflict [2].

Both countries emphasized their unwavering support for the Indian Ocean being a zone of peace, far from Great Power rivalries, tension, and military escalation in a joint communiqué released at the conclusion of his visit. The two nations voiced worry about the increase in military activities in the Indian Ocean area and hoped that everyone would recognize it as a zone of peace. The Republic of India and the Republic of the Maldives have typically had cordial and tight bilateral ties. Strategic, commercial, and military cooperation was formed between India and the Maldives. India has developed an alliance with the island country in support of its strategic objectives in the Indian Ocean and has helped to preserve security on the island nation. On January 12, 1975, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi travelled to the Maldives and met with Ahmed Zaki, the leader of that nation.

She was sure that in the next years, economic and technological collaboration would increase much more. She made a short reference of the necessity to maintain stability and peace in the Indian Ocean. Both countries agreed that Great Powers shouldn't engage in a rivalry of strength-building in this ocean. She emphasised that India maintained its fundamental commitment to non-alignment and peaceful coexistence. The evidence of Super Power détente really supported the viability of these approaches. Indira Gandhi encouraged the nations in the area to fend against pressure from the military, economic, and political spheres. Insisting on the development and distribution of the world's resources in a reasonable and equitable way was a crucial component of their shared approach. All governments want the Indian Ocean to be a place of peace, she added, citing the 'increasing naval activity' that brought undesirable conflict closer to them. She continued by saying that the pressure applied to us by global economic forces has made the quest for ways to improve collaboration between nations like India and the Maldives all the more necessary [3].

India's nuclear strategy got appreciation and full understanding from Maldives, according to a Joint Communiqué released at the conclusion of Indira Gandhi's tour. In this communiqué, Mr. Zaki emphasised his gratitude for and knowledge of India's position in this area as well as his confidence that the advantages of this technology might have a big positive impact on the region's economic growth. The communiqué also expressed India and Maldives' steadfast determination to keep the Indian Ocean a peaceful region and their worry over recent events there. In order to further economic, cultural, and other interactions, they decided that it was

necessary to take steps to increase their bilateral cooperation in the areas of education, fisheries, and air and sea communications. The first flight service between Male, the capital of the Maldives, and Colombo was launched in 1977 thanks to a partnership between Indian Airlines and flight Maldives. On March 2, 1978, the Indian government made the decision to give the Government of India-owned Airport Authority a building contract for an airport in the amount of 11 million US dollars.

According to M. A. Gayoom, the transport minister for the Maldives, the contract called for building civil works and fuel storage facilities at Male's Hulhule airport. Kuwait provided the majority of the funding for the project, which was finished in 1980. To make it easier for Jumbo-Jets to land, the runway was extended. International bids were received by the Maldives for the development of a communications system and airport navigational aids [4]. A contract for the operation of aviation services between India and the Maldives was signed on February 13th, 1979 in New Delhi. The Agreement states that Maldivian foreign airlines may run three flights each week to either Trivandrum or Madras, while Indian Airlines is permitted to operate three services each week to Male. The Agreement was signed by M. Naeem, Director, Ministry of Transport, Government of Maldives, and Air Marshal J. Zaheer, Director-General of Civil Aviation, on behalf of India. To boost their bilateral commerce, the two governments decided to establish a regular institutional framework. India promised to fulfil the Maldives' needs for basic necessities and agreed to establish an annual list of these products. Khursheed Alam Khan, the Maldives' deputy minister for public safety, and Ilyas Ibrahim, the minister of state for commerce, both signed the agreed-upon minutes of the Indo-Maldivian trade negotiations conducted in New Delhi from November 17–20, 1980.

It was also decided that the responsibility of establishing business agreements for transporting the designated goods to the Maldives would fall within the purview of the governmental trade organisations of the two nations. Additionally, Mr. Ibrahim spoke with Pranab Mukherjee, the commerce minister, and expressed his country's significant desire in expanding trade relations with India. On September 6, 1983, Maldivian President M. A. Gayoom travelled to India and met Indira Gandhi. The non-aligned movement and recent events in the Indian Ocean were topics of conversation between the two leaders. He also spoke with P. V. Narasimha Rao, the minister of external affairs, and President Zail Singh. According to Zail Singh, India, like the Maldives, was alarmed by the frightening consequences of the rising unrest in the Indian Ocean area. If both governments were to flourish naturally without conflict and outside meddling, peace was required. Gayoom said that in addition to being neighbours, the two nations have longstanding historical and cultural links. Maldives, in his opinion, was devoted to the idea of collaboration among South Asian nations. A cultural pact including art, culture, archaeology, education, social welfare, public health, mass media, and sports was signed by the two countries the next day.

The 13-article agreement called for the exchange of academics, experts, and representatives of the fields of education, literature, science, technology, the arts, and sports as well as the provision of facilities and financial aid to students and scientists from the other country as well as publications of cultural, educational, scientific, and sporting literature as well as copies of works of art. Additionally, it included visits from sports teams as well as exchanges of musicians, dancers, and film and television shows. It also involved participation in each other's international film festivals [5], [6]. At a special convocation on September 8, 1983, President M. A. Gayoom received an honorary doctorate of letters from Aligarh Muslim University. We find today, in this twentieth century, that some powerful nations are trying to dominate the world and in many international issues that confront the world, might is still regarded as right, he added in his address. He grieved the serious injustices being done to poorer countries and

peoples. Wars were fought to conquer new regions and territories, and innocent people were forcibly removed from their homes. The Maldivian President Gayoom visited New Delhi once again on February 4, 1985, when he met with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and spoke about bilateral, regional, and global concerns. The necessity to further deepen the cordial connections between the two nations was emphasised by both presidents. It was reported that the visiting President wanted more financial and technical support for the Maldives' quick growth. India has already provided the Maldives its knowledge of establishing small size businesses in several sectors.

On February 7, 1986, Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, paid a visit to Male and spoke with the president of the Maldives on regional affairs and bilateral ties. The Five Year Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement was also inked by the two nations. The agreement included the creation of a joint committee to find certain areas of mutual benefit and was intended to strengthen economic and commercial connections between the two governments. Both presidents voiced alarm about the ongoing weapons race and sternly encouraged the great powers to intensify their efforts in the ongoing global military conflict. Gayoom agreed with Gandhi that poor countries needed a new framework for international economic relations in order to get a more equal share of global commerce and resources. India offered the Maldives a comprehensive package of economic, technical, and commercial aid totaling around '21 crores, increased the disputed luggage limit, and committed to provide young Maldivians specialised training opportunities in Indian Institutes. The package was a component of the economic and technical aid agreements.

There have been ongoing calls for India to reinstate the original luggage limit for travellers to the islands after it had been cut down in the past. For stays longer than three days, the luggage allowance would increase to 1,250 and be limited at 750 pounds. Gandhi, on the other hand, decided to provide aid in the fields of medicine, meteorology, the hotel sector, telecommunications, and television programming. With land provided by the government, India built a 30-bed general hospital in the Maldives, which included a 20-bed Indira Gandhi Cardiac Centre. A two-year cultural programme for the exchange of artists, academics, athletes, and media professionals was agreed between India and the Maldives in 1987. Varadaraja, Secretary of the Department of Culture, and I. H. Zaki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Maldives, signed it. This was the first exchange programme of its kind. India aided the Maldives in November 1988 by swiftly dispatching its military troops to quell an attempt by certain Sri Lankans to overthrow President Gayoom's legitimate government [7], [8].

President Mr. Gayoom expressed pleasure on July 23, 1989, that all areas of bilateral cooperation between the two nations had progressed. Both nations were working together and pursuing socialist ideals as their foreign policy goals. The Indira Gandhi Hospital, which will be erected by the National Building Construction Corporation of India, would serve as a symbol of the goodwill between the two nations, according to Mr Gayoom. Mr. Menon, the Indian High Commissioner to the Maldives, said that the political, economic, social, and cultural relations between the two countries have increased. India saw it as an honour to take part in the historic economic revolution that the Maldives was undergoing at the time. He reaffirmed India's adherence to the SAARC's founding principles, which had been peaceful coexistence as its cornerstone.

SAARC and Maldives

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Asian Economic Union, and the South Asia Free Trade Agreement all include India and the Maldives as founder members and signatories. High-level conversations and discussions on regional problems have continued

between the leaders of the two nations. India has a significant influence on the foreign policy of the Maldives and provides security, particularly in the wake of Operation Cactus in 1988, when India successfully deterred Tamil mercenaries from invading the Maldives. Maldives plays a crucial role in SAARC as the organization's founding member, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Maldives requests a number of things, including the creation of a SAARC Human Rights Resource Centre, the South Asian Free Trade Agreement, a social charter, and informal political consultations in SAARC forums. It also advocates for increased environmental action. The Maldives supports giving SAARC a higher worldwide prominence, such as by developing unified stances at the UN. Maldives, however, claims sovereignty over the Muslim-dominated area of Minicoy, which is under Indian administration.

Maldives and the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam

Speedboats carrying 80 armed militants from the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam arrived in the Maldives in November 1988, and with help from infiltrating comrades, they immediately started seizing control of the government. The Tamil nationalist organisation in Sri Lanka is said to have plotted the scheme as part of an effort by a Maldivian businessman and politician who was opposed to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's administration to seize power. The PLOTE, on the other hand, desires a secure location to call home and carry out its operations.

Although the extremists took control of Male's airport, they were unable to apprehend Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who had left and asked India for military assistance. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India at the time, had sent 1,600 soldiers to assist the Maldivian government. Within 12 hours after Gayoom's appeal, Indian soldiers came to put an end to the coup attempt in the military action known as Operation Cactus. They overran the whole nation within a few hours, killing 19 PLOTE terrorists and wounding 1 Indian soldier in the process. On September 18, 1989, Maldivian President Gayoom paid a visit to New Delhi and said that the Indian troops had done well, and the tiny detachment that had remained behind had helped the Maldives security forces by advising and training them. Gayoom was quite pleased with the conclusion of his discussions with Indian authorities in New Delhi, including the prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, and during this visit it had been determined that the first joint commission meeting would be conducted in Male between November 6 and 10.

On January 14, 1990, Indian External Affairs Minister I. K. Gujral paid a visit to Male and announced that both nations had reached an agreement in principle to do away with the need for visas for travel between India and the Maldives, making them the first SAARC members to do so. In addition, Indian Airlines will begin running direct flights from Bombay within 10 days to provide access to this island country. Gujral had previously attended a ceremony when President Gayoom laid the cornerstone for the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital. The greatest project India undertook as part of the foreign aid plan was this hospital. Gujral said that since the island country was commemorating its 25th anniversary of independence, India was in support of the Maldives hosting the Fifth SAARC Summit in that year [9], [10].

A Memorandum of Understanding between the two nations was signed on January 13th, 1990, enabling Male to utilise an Indian satellite after its launch in July. Along with extending cooperation in the areas of security, civil aviation, health, education, and agriculture, the two nations also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) pledging to do away with the visa need. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Maldivian Foreign Ministry's permanent secretary, I. H. Zaki, and the Indian High Commissioner, M. P. M. Menon, allowed Male to receive metrological data and television programmes for rebroadcast on the local

television network. Indian Airlines' decision to start offering direct flights from Bombay to Male was made possible by the inaugural meeting of the Indo-Maldivian joint commission. Gayoom did not believe that a defence agreement between India and his country was necessary, despite the fact that Indian military support had successfully thwarted an attempt at a coup in the island nation in 1988.

From March 15–17, 1990, President Gayoom of the Maldives paid a second visit to New Delhi. He spoke with Premier V. P. Singh and Indian President R. Venkataraman. Gayoom described his visit as very successful and very fruitful, noting that he had addressed all bilateral problems and had come to a high degree of understanding on all of them. On March 22, 1990, Indian Premier V. P. Singh paid a visit to Male and met Maldivian President Gayoom, who had made eight trips to India during the previous 10 years, either on official business or to attend a conference or SAARC gathering. The partnership between India and the Maldives included a wide range of topics, from training Maldivian staff by Indian professionals to sharing Doordarshan programmes through INSAT.

To promote bilateral relations, New Delhi provided Male technical support in many sectors on April 15, 1995. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to fostering new connections and strengthening current ones in order to maintain a friendly and mutually beneficial partnership. India provided support in the fields of non-conventional energy, non-defense, medical, and maritime transport. India and Maldives, a significant maritime neighbour, continue to have extremely strong and cordial connections. Salah Shihab, the Maldives' deputy foreign minister, conducted a symposium on Indo-Maldives relations in June 1996 at the Institute of Asian Studies in Hyderabad. Ahmed Zaki, the minister of transport and communication for the Maldives, visited India once again in October 1996 as part of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure. In December of the same year, the Maldives' Foreign Minister, Fathulla Jamil, paid a visit to Delhi for the SAARC Minister Meeting. The Maldives received mostly human resource development support from India. Both nations decided to work together to establish a remote learning system for the Maldives. In order to analyse the needs of the Maldivians and prepare for the introduction of the programme, a group from the Indira Gandhi National Open University, headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Janardan Jha, travelled to the Maldives.

The Maldives Institute of Technical Education, a project supported by the Government of India, was successfully finished and turned over to the Maldivian government on September 16, 1996. Other nations, including the United States, Soviet Union, Great Britain, Nepal, and Bangladesh, supported India's invasion in 1988. The swift response, resounding triumph, and restoration of the Maldivian government boosted bilateral ties. Following conflicts with Sri Lanka and internal security issues, Maldives considered its connection with India as a source of long-term security. However, Maldives continues to struggle with significant macroeconomic imbalances that have led to growing debt, low levels of foreign currency reserves, and an inflated nominal exchange rate. The continued dominance of the heavily regulated public sector in economic activities has impeded private sector development. The government made plans to allow private companies to export fresh and tinned fish from the beginning of 2000. To make any real headway in boosting the economy, the administration needed to implement reforms in the banking and financial sectors and further reduce public spending. By 2024, the government projects that the Maldives' economy would have doubled in size. The preservation of the fragile environment in order to ensure sustainable economic growth, the promotion of greater regional development to foster more equitable growth, and an improvement in Maldivian teaching standards in order to increase the national skill base are three additional critical issues that demand immediate attention.

On his 27 March 2005 visit to India, Gayoom expressed gratitude for India's positive contributions to Maldives public health and human resource development. He also commended India for providing prompt aid during the disaster. On March 30, 2005, after speaking with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, he stated: Although the death toll in the Maldives was relatively low, the tsunami created a nationwide disaster, wiping out approximately 62 percent of GDP. Lt. Colonel Abdulla Shamaal served as the first military attaché when the Republic of the Maldives' High Commission in India established the first military Attaché's Office overseas in 2005. The Maldives National Defence Force's Coast Guard received a 46-meter-long Trinkat Class Fast Attack Craft from the Indian Navy in April 2006 as part of a move to integrate the island nation into India's security network. The action was conducted when Maldives contacted India out of concern that one of its island resorts would be threatened by terrorists owing to a lack of military resources and monitoring equipment [11], [12].

When discussing the tense ties between India and Pakistan during the SAARC Summit in Bhutan in April 2010, Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed voiced his optimism that the meeting of the two nations' prime ministers will result in an end to their tensions. Nasheed expressed his hope that the two leaders will have a meaningful talk and work out their disagreements when speaking at the 16th SAARC Summit. The conversation will lead to greater dialogue between India and Pakistan, he said. President Nasheed of the Maldives made it plain during his visit to New Delhi in October 2010 where he also met with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that the success of South Asia is dependent on ties between India and Pakistan. Nasheed pushed for the two nations to forge strong connections and said it was doable. In order to strengthen their relationships, the two nations should work from the ground up, according to the president, who also proposed that Indian multinational corporations invest in Pakistan. He continued by pointing out that India is developing quickly and that its neighbours may benefit from this, an idea that New Delhi has long sought to advance with the other nations in the region. Additionally, he said that India, and in particular Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, had been working hard to 'go out of way' to engage with tiny nations.

Regular meetings at all levels have fostered and deepened bilateral ties. Nearly all of India's prime ministers have visited the Maldives since diplomatic ties were established. Both previous presidents of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Mohamed Nasheed, travelled to India often while they in office. It was President Abdulla Yameen's first official trip outside of the country when he travelled to India from January 4 to 8, 2014, along with a high-level team. In May 2014, he also attended Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony. Additionally, high-level ministerial visits are exchanged often. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, India's Minister of External Affairs, travelled to the Maldives in November 2014. From June 3–5, 2015, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation, also travelled to the Maldives to attend the UNWTO Regional Ministerial Conference. Recently, Maldivian ministerial-level visitors included Mr. Mohamed Saeed, the minister of economic development, Dr. Mohamed Shainee, the minister of agriculture and fisheries, Col. Mohamed Nazim, the minister of defence and national security, Mr. Mohamed Shaheem, the minister of Islamic affairs, Ms. Dunya Maumoon, and Mr. Ahmed Zuhoor, the minister of health. In multilateral fora like the UN, Commonwealth, NAM, and SAARC, India and the Maldives have continuously backed one another.

Indian Community

Indians are the second largest expatriate community in the Maldives with approximate strength of around 26,000. Indian expatriate community consists of workers as well as professionals like doctors, teachers, accountants, managers, engineers, nurses and technicians etc. spread over several islands. Of the country's approximately 400 doctors, over 125 are Indians.

Similarly, around 25 per cent of teachers in Maldives are Indians, mostly at middle and senior levels.

Indo-Sri Lanka Relations

Off the coast of South East India, in Sri Lanka, there are strong cultural ties to India. It is generally known that King Ashoka sent his daughter Sangh Mitra and son Mahendra to this island kingdom in order to spread Buddhism. Many Indians have moved in Sri Lanka, where they work mostly on tea and rubber plantations. On February 4, 1948, Sri Lanka formally ended its British control and joined the Commonwealth of Nations. It gave up its dominion status and changed its status to republic. Since 1961, Sri Lanka has participated actively in NAM. Sri Lanka shares the aim of global peace and the UN with no reserve. Additionally, it was a founder member of SAARC. Sri Lanka adheres to the non-alignment doctrine, same as India and other third world nations.

Although there has usually been goodwill between the two countries, the ongoing civil conflict in Sri Lanka has controversially impacted those relations. India is Sri Lanka's lone neighbor, and the Palk Strait divides the two countries. Both nations work to create a shared security edifice for South Asia given their critical location there. The sovereignty of Katchatheevu, an uninhabited island of one square mile and situated in the Palk Straits off the coast of Jaffna, has been the subject of a territorial dispute. Every year, during the St. Anthony festival in March, pilgrims from Sri Lanka and India would go to Katchateevu Island for a four-day service at the local Roman Catholic church. In 1986, India criticised the presence of Sri Lankan police during the event. Although this led to friction between the two countries, both want to prevent a disastrous crisis. It ultimately took more than five years to come to a definitive resolution about this Island. The territorial dispute and fishing rights in the Palk Straits were discussed by the prime ministers of the two nations in June 1974. Finally, a thorough agreement on the maritime boundary's delineation was reached between the two leaders, and India recognized Sri Lanka's possession of the Katchateevu Island. D. S. Senanayake, Sri Lanka's first independent prime minister, said that his nation would take a middle course in power politics and would not associate itself with any power bloc because it believed in peace. It has understood its strategic location as a sizable island in the Indian Ocean. Senanayake thought that communism may pose a significant danger to the newly developing countries. Because it lacked the resources to adequately defend itself, this island nation signed a security agreement with Great Britain and granted permission for British military installations at Trincomalee and Colombo.

India has been quite clear that it wants to be cordial with all of its neighbours since gaining its freedom. India hopes the same for Sri Lanka since the two countries are such close neighbours. Since a very long time ago, India and Sri Lanka have maintained friendly ties. In the early years of India's international relations after independence, the same friendly connection persisted. However, the racial unrest in Sri Lanka abruptly brought the age of goodwill to an end. D. S. Senanayake, Sri Lanka's first-ever elected prime minister, promised the Tamils that they would get justice when the country gained independence. He advised the Tamils not to be afraid of the Sinhalese. However, persecution against the Tamils reportedly started after his passing. The Official Language Act of 1956 established Sinhalese to be the only official language of Sri Lanka, despite the fact that the two-language system that was implemented under the Senanayake government was abandoned. Ethnic rioting resulted from the Tamils' opposition to this measure. Tamil was acknowledged as the language of the national minority in a 1957 agreement between Prime Minister Bandaranaike and the head of the Tamil people, Chelvanayakam. Sri Lanka has a significant position in India's foreign policy as one of its nearest neighbours with a long history of cultural links. Both countries abhor racism,

colonialism, and imperialism. Sir John Kotelawala, D. S. Senanayake's successor, emphasized the non-alignment doctrine as well. He did, however, passionately oppose communist doctrine and support pro-Western policies. Kotelawala wanted to work with every anti-communist organization on the planet. He was vehemently opposed to imperialism and saw the Soviet Union's influence in Eastern Europe as harmful.

DISCUSSION

The common history, close proximity to one another geographically, and similar interests between the two countries have all contributed to a considerable evolution in Indo-Maldives ties throughout time. The dynamics of this bilateral relationship are explored in this discussion paragraph, with an emphasis on the strategic value of their collaboration and important facets of cooperation. India and the Maldives have kept up cordial connections that are marked by respect for one another and collaboration in many different areas. Both nations understand how crucial it is to maintain solid political and diplomatic ties since they are the cornerstones of their bilateral cooperation. The relationship between India and the Maldives has been further reinforced through frequent high-level visits and interactions between leaders on both sides. The Indo-Maldives partnership has made significant economic growth thanks to growing trade and investment activity. India has established itself as a major development partner for the Maldives, offering financial support, infrastructural improvement, and technological know-how in a number of fields.

Agriculture, tourism, and telecommunications are just a few of the industries that have seen an increase in trade between the two nations. Maritime cooperation has been a key component of Indo-Maldives ties in the area of security. Both nations understand the need of maintaining maritime security and preventing dangers like piracy, illicit fishing, and smuggling due to their shared marine borders and the strategic position of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. Their collaboration has improved as a result of ongoing intelligence sharing, cooperative naval exercises, and capacity development programs. Through cultural programs, educational scholarships, and people-to-people encounters, the Indo-Maldives relationship has improved culturally. Due to their shared history and culture, both countries are better able to comprehend and respect one another's customs and beliefs. It is impossible to overestimate the strategic significance of the Indo-Maldives relationship. The stability and security of the Maldives, which hold a prominent location in the Indian Ocean, are of great concern to India. Both nations understand the need of cooperating to preserve peace, security, and freedom of passage in the Indian Ocean area, where geopolitical rivalry is growing.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Indo-Maldives ties have developed into a solid and complex relationship that is marked by respect for one another, common interests, and a dedication to regional stability and growth. The two nations' collaboration has become stronger throughout time in a number of areas, including politics, economy, security, and culture. Taking into account the geopolitical dynamics of the Indian Ocean area, the relationship between India and the Maldives is of crucial strategic significance. The Maldives' India First strategy and India's strategic vision have created the groundwork for improved engagement and cooperation. The Indo-Maldives relations have shown to be resilient and committed to overcoming barriers, despite any potential difficulties. There is tremendous potential for future progress and wealth if both nations continue to cooperate, benefitting not just India and the Maldives but also the larger region. The Indian Ocean may remain peaceful and prosperous as long as there is constant communication, collaboration, and a common vision for the future between India and the Maldives.

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CHAPTER 11

AN OVERVIEW OF THE 1953, NEHRU-KOTELAWALA AGREEMENT

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ABSTRACT:

The Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement, signed in 1953 between Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala, holds immense historical significance in the diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka. This landmark agreement aimed to address the pressing issues faced by the Indian Tamil community residing in Sri Lanka, particularly pertaining to citizenship, repatriation, and the protection of their rights. By delving into the historical context, objectives, negotiation process, key provisions, and subsequent impacts, this chapter provides a concise overview of the Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement and its profound influence on bilateral relations and the well-being of the Indian Tamil population in Sri Lanka.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Relations, Citizenship, Repatriation, Rights Protection, Historical Significance.

INTRODUCTION

In order to find a solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, an agreement was made in 1953 by the two prime ministers, Nehru and Kotelawala. The following were the agreement's primary characteristics. The names of Indian nationals who want to settle permanently in Sri Lanka should be registered by the government of Sri Lanka. Those who refused to become Sri Lankan nationals would be returned to India. Sri Lanka's illegal immigration from India will be effectively curbed. The Sri Lankan government would rapidly resolve citizenship petitions that have been languishing for two years or more. To allow individuals of Indian heritage to elect their representatives proportionally, a separate electoral record would be kept for them. Those of Indian descent who desired but were unable to get Sri Lankan citizenship were permitted to remain as foreigners. The Act passed in 1958 allowed for the use of Tamil in education, government service entrance exams, and the administration of the eastern and northern regions. However, the Sri Lankan government was unable to properly execute either the Act of 1958 or the Agreement of 1957. In the public sector, Tamils made about 30% of the workforce in 1948, but by 1975, that number had dropped to 5%.

Their presence in the military and police was significantly decreased, and they faced discrimination in the educational system. By 1970, just 16% of university students identified as Tamil, down from over 31% in 1948. Approximately 10 lakh Tamils had their political rights taken away by the citizenship legislation of 1948 and 1949 [1]. When Ceylon, subsequently known as Sri Lanka, attained independence and became a free country like India, it made the decision to adopt a non-alignment policy in February 1948. This allowed both nations maintain friendly ties with one another. In order to secure a shared sphere of influence in the area, both countries moved on with the establishment of strong cultural, commercial, strategic, and defense links, embracing non-alignment to restrain the impact of both the West and the Soviet Union. The success of the Non-Alignment Movement was greatly aided by Sir John

Kotelawala, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. The Bandung Conference was held in April 1953 as a result of his efforts. Sri Lanka was crucial in settling the conflict between India and China when China invaded India in 1962. As a result, Bandaranaike, the then-prime minister of Sri Lanka, travelled to China to discuss the Colombo proposals, also known as the Colombo Plan, which was put out by six countries to resolve the Sino-Indian issue. Sri Lanka supported Red China's admission to the UN, just as India did. Strong bilateral ties were a result of the close friendship between the then-prime ministers of India, Indira Gandhi, and Sri Lanka, Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Armed troops from India assisted in quelling a Communist uprising against the Sri Lankan government in 1971 [2].

However, the issue of the Tamils of Sri Lanka, who made up close to 30% of the population, caused more major issues and severely strained ties between the two republics. The Anglo-US imperialists and their Pakistani agents were dividing the Sinhalese and Tamil people. According to reports, the US has set up shop at the strategically important Trincomalee port, thus endangering India's security. Additionally, Sri Lanka established ties with Israel and was actively supported by its foreign sponsors in its barbaric game to exterminate the Tamil community in the island's northern regions. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the prime minister of Sri Lanka, travelled to India in October 1964. On October 24, 1964, Mrs. Bandaranaike and Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri inked an accord after protracted diplomatic discussions. Both presidents tried to find a solution to Sri Lanka's 9,75,000 stateless people. roughly 3,00,000 persons in Sri Lanka and roughly 5,25,000 people in India received citizenship as a result of this accord. It was expected that a decision would be made soon about the remaining 1,50,000 stateless people.

A new agreement was signed between these two leaders when Sirimavo Bandaranaike visited India in January 1974 while serving in her second term and discussed the remaining stateless people with her Indian counterpart, Indira Gandhi. Half of the people obtained Indian citizenship, and the remaining individuals received Sri Lankan citizenship. This problem of statelessness was thus attempted to be resolved amicably. Due to this issue, Colombo had been carelessly charging New Delhi of supporting the Tamil terrorists who were at the time calling for an independent Tamil state. The Sri Lankan government could not stop the island from being divided unless it met the Tamils' justifiable demands, upheld their human rights, and granted autonomy to the regions they resided within the framework of Sri Lankan federalism. Naturally, New Delhi had to keep an eye out for the Sri Lankan government's attempts to use the Anglo-US-Israel-Pakistan axis to mortgage the island and would have to choose when to defend the island by acting bravely [3].

The centrality of India in Sri Lanka's foreign relations matrix is widely accepted within the Sri Lankan politics. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the United Nationalist Party, two of the country's main political parties, have both contributed to the fast growth of bilateral relations over the last 10 years. Sri Lanka has backed India's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council's permanent membership. India and Sri Lanka just recently began working together economically. Due to the fact that both states are significant tea exporters, their relationship was formerly seen as competitive. Since India provided Sri Lanka with a loan of Rs. 2 crores in 1966 so that it could purchase food from India, their economic ties have increased. Items like dried fish, textiles and dried chillies were to be imported from India. In 1967, additional credit of 5 crores was provided for the acquisition of electrical and communications equipment, railway coaches and wagons, machineries and machine tools and commercial vehicles, among other things [4].

While Sri Lanka only exported one crore of commodities to India in 1971, it purchased items from India worth 20 crores. Following Indira Gandhi's visit to the state in April 1973, the

economic cooperation improved. India helped Sri Lanka with five different industries, including sheet glass, rubber-based products, graphite, refractory materials, and mica. For the following five years, India promised Sri Lankan project development an annual grant of Rs. 1 crore. India committed to give high-breed animals, equipment, and \$50,000 towards the construction of a centre for raising cattle and sheep in Sri Lanka. India donated a shared facility for Sri Lanka's mica industry, which cost \$25 lakhs. Therefore, it was clear that India sought to encourage the development of new commercial ties and the diversification of Sri Lanka's economy. A contract for scientific and technological cooperation between the two nations was signed in 1975 [5].

Between the 1970s and 1980s, private entities and elements in the Government of Tamil Nadu were allegedly encouraging the funding and training of the LTTE or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist insurgent force. India made the decision to intervene directly in the war in response to mounting resentment among Tamils living in the nation and a flood of refugees. After the Sri Lankan government attempted to retake control of northern Jaffna by military operations and an economic embargo, this incident occurred for the first time. India sent food and medical supplies through sea and air as help. Following further discussions, the two nations came to an agreement on a peace treaty that granted the Tamil provinces a certain amount of regional autonomy. The regional council was under the supervision of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, which also asked that militant Tamil factions put down their weapons. India then sent its IPKF peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka to oversee the regional council and assist disarmament.

The Tamil Tigers and other Tamil militant organizations were not involved in the deal's signing, which took place between the governments of Sri Lanka and India. The majority of Tamil militant groups approved the pact. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front nominee for the position of Chief Administrative Officer of the combined Northern and Eastern provinces was opposed by the LTTE, which is another reason they rejected the agreement. The LTTE selected three other candidates in their place. India rejected the candidates that the LTTE had suggested. After that, the LTTE resisted giving the IPKF their weapons. Although there has long been hostility between the Tamil and Sinhalese populations in Sri Lanka, things really got out of hand in July 1983 when soldiers began ruthlessly killing Tamils in jails and other places. The government of Sri Lanka accused India of providing firearms training to Tamil terrorists in Indian territory during the early phases of the conflict between the Tamil and Sinhalese [6].

It was clear that the continuous extermination of Tamils on the island would prompt Tamil Nadu and India to take decisive action, at the very least to prevent the present influx of Tamil refugees from the island from travelling to the mainland. India's involvement would be required to accomplish this, which would need to be avoided as much as possible. Rajiv Gandhi disallowed military participation in Sri Lanka on February 15, 1985. However, he sent Romesh Bhandari, the Indian Foreign Secretary, to Colombo as his special representative on March 24 in an effort to put an end to the ongoing ethnic bloodshed on the island. A solution would have been simple to find if Sri Lanka had quit taking part in anti-Indian positions at the behest of Britain, the United States, and Pakistan. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, and Junius Richard Jayawardene, the president of Sri Lanka, agreed to a deal in July 1987 that would bring in a period of peace and prosperity. The new agreement avoided having the Tamils and the Jayawardene government directly negotiate. India was largely held accountable for the successful implementation and disarmament of the Tamil Tigers. The LTTE and other political factions in Sri Lanka once again resisted such an agreement. As the IPKF was fully entangled in the war, the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, which had previously alienated Sri Lankans by

granting India a significant role, came under fire from nationalists. People in Sri Lanka objected to the IPKF's presence, and the country's recently elected president Ranasinghe Premadasa urged that it be removed. By March 1990, the project was finished. Rajiv Gandhi was murdered on May 21, 1992, and the LTTE was implicated in the crime. In 1992, India designated the LTTE as a terrorist organization. Since then, India has criticized Pakistan's military role in the conflict, accusing it of providing weaponry and aiding Sri Lanka in choosing military action over political dialogue to resolve the civil war [7].

Pacts and Agreements between India and Sri Lanka

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme, the South Asian Economic Union, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation are just a few of the regional and multilateral organisations that India and Sri Lanka are members of. Since the signing and implementation of a bilateral free trade agreement in 2000, commerce between India and Sri Lanka increased in 2004 and tripled in 2006, reaching the \$2.6 billion level. With 3.6% of all exports from Sri Lanka, India is the country's fifth-largest export market. The South Asia Free Trade Agreement has been ratified by both nations. In order to enhance business investment and initiatives across a range of sectors, negotiations to widen the free trade agreement were made. It was projected that 2010, with Sri Lanka's exports to India rising by 45% in the first seven months, would be the biggest year for bilateral trade ever.

In Palk Bay, Indian fishermen have often come under fire. The Indian government has always placed a high priority on the problem of Indian fishermen's safety and has addressed it with the Sri Lankan government. There isn't currently a legitimate Indian fisherman being held by Sri Lanka. Concerning Indian fishermen who transgress into Sri Lankan territorial seas, a Joint Working Group has been established. On January 12, 2011, India formally denounced the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly taking part in assaults on Indian fishermen. In Sri Lanka, India is involved in a variety of development initiatives. Sri Lanka receives around one-sixth of the entire amount of development credit provided by the Government of India [8]. Under Aid to Sri Lanka money, a number of development initiatives are being carried out, including:

- i. Small Development Projects:** An MoU on Cooperation in Small Development Projects between India and Sri Lanka had been inked. It included programs for giving fishing equipment to the fishermen in the East of Sri Lanka and solar energy assisted computer teaching in 25 rural schools.
- ii. Health Projects:** India has provided Sri Lankan hospitals with medical supplies, including ambulances. Additionally, aid has been provided for 1,500 people's cataract surgical programs.
- iii. Educational Initiatives:** Computer laboratories have been set up for pupils, schools and other educational facilities have been rebuilt, and instructors have received training.

Training: Sri Lankan Police Personnel have been Trained.

Relations between India and Sri Lanka have changed both qualitatively and quantitatively in recent years. Along with greater military cooperation, both nations also have strong political relations in terms of commerce, investments, and infrastructure connections. Following the tsunami in December 2004, India was the first nation to react to Sri Lanka's appeal for aid. During the situation in Lebanon, India assisted in the evacuation of 430 Sri Lankan people, first through Indian Navy ships to Cyprus, then via special Air India aircraft to New Delhi and ultimately Colombo.

Commercial Relations

For years, Sri Lanka has been a top choice for Indian direct investment. In SAARC, Sri Lanka ranks as India's second-largest commercial partner. India is Sri Lanka's top international trading partner. After the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement went into effect in March 2000, trade between the two nations increased very quickly. According to Sri Lankan Customs, bilateral commerce reached US \$ 4.6 billion in 2014, up by 23.37% from 2013. In 2014, India exported US\$ 3977 million to Sri Lanka, while Sri Lanka exported US\$ 625 million to India. With cumulative investments totaling more than US\$ 1 billion since 2003, India is one of the top four foreign investors in Sri Lanka. The investments span a variety of sectors, including the production of tyres, cement, glass, and infrastructure, as well as IT, financial services, real estate, communications, hospitality and tourism, banking, and food processing.

New investments from Indian corporations are either in the works or have already begun. Among these are plans from Shree Renuka Sugar to build a sugar refinery in Hambantota, South City, Kolkata for the growth of Colombo's real estate market. the Tata Housing Slave Island growth project in collaboration with the Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka. and the ITC Ltd. Colombo One project. In May 2013, Dabur already has a facility for making fruit juice. On the other side, there has been a rising trend of Sri Lankan investments in India during the last several years. Aitken Spence, John Keels, Hayleys, Brandix, and MAS Holdings are notable examples in addition to other ventures in the logistics and freight service industry [8].

Indo-Bhutan Relations

Before 1947, the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan enjoyed a cordial but discretely distant relationship with British-India. Initial worries about the People's Republic of China's annexation of Tibet in 1950–1951 surfaced in New Delhi and Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. India started giving Bhutan a significant amount of foreign assistance in the late 1960s. Bhutan received extensive military support from India in 1962–1963, during the Sino-Indian War. Both countries have been maintaining friendly relations, and Bhutan fully supports India on all political, diplomatic, and economic fronts. Bhutan's admittance to the United Nations was sponsored by India, and India also assisted Bhutan in gaining membership to a number of other international organisations. Bhutan and India are closely related historically and culturally. Even though Bhutan is a tiny landlocked nation and India is a major state, both nations enjoy cordial political and economic ties. In truth, Guru Padma Sambhava and several other Buddhist instructors travelled from India to Bhutan in the eighth century, establishing the first links between the two countries. Their biographies are a goldmine of information about Bhutan's past.

The pact of Sinchula, which was signed by the two nations in 1865, was their first significant pact. It spoke of an ongoing state of peace between the two nations. Bhutan's monarchy was established in 1909, and British India at that time recognised it. Bhutan's foreign policy was thereafter placed under the control of the Government of British India by the Treaty of Punakha in 1910. However, the same treaty also stipulated that no foreign forces would meddle in Bhutan's domestic affairs. The pact of 1949 was built on the framework of the two aforementioned accords. In accordance with Article 2 of the Indo-Bhutan Treaty, Bhutan must consult India while managing its foreign policy but is free to accept or reject this advise. Even today, this treaty provides the fundamental basis for bilateral interactions between the two countries, and as such, it has never caused friction in their historically cordial and amicable relationship [9].

After India achieved its freedom, relations between the two nations became closer. The third monarch of Bhutan, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, paid a visit to India in 1954, and Jawaharlal Nehru paid a visit to Bhutan in 1958. The momentous visit by Nehru changed the course of ties between India and Bhutan. Since China claimed 2200 square miles of Bhutanese land during the years 1958–1959, Nehru made the definitive statement in the Parliament that any attack on Bhutan would be seen as an attack on India. India also guaranteed Bhutan's security even though the Treaty of 1949 lacked a defence clause. In 1949, the two nations agreed to a Friendship Treaty, which stated that India would support Bhutan's diplomatic efforts. The Indo-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was once again significantly updated on February 8, 2007, by Bhutanese King Jigme Wangchuck. The Government of India undertakes to exercise no interference in the internal administration of Bhutan, stated Article 2 of the Treaty. In regards to its foreign relations, the Government of Bhutan accepts to follow the guidance of the Government of India.

The new treaty now states that the governments of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Republic of India shall cooperate closely with each other on matters relating to their respective national interests. This is in line with the two countries' longstanding strong friendship and collaboration. Neither government should permit actions that might be detrimental to the other's national security or interests to take place on its territory. The preamble to the new treaty, which was omitted from the original version, read: Reaffirming their respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. As a result, Bhutan's standing as an independent and sovereign country is strengthened by the Indo-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 2007.

The establishment of a permanent envoy in Thimphu in 1968 marked the beginning of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan. Before this, the political officer in Sikkim was in charge of maintaining India's relations with Bhutan. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which was amended and signed in February 2007, serves as the fundamental tenet of bilateral relations between India and Bhutan. Bhutan's first start on an international trip was its involvement in the Colombo Plan, which was funded by India in 1963. Bhutan's admission to the Universal Postal Union was supported by India later in 1969. With strong support from India, Bhutan was admitted to the UN in 1971, and in 1985 it joined the SAARC. India made it clear by its aid that Bhutan's desire for a global role does not conflict with the provisions of Article 2 of the Treaty of 1949.

There is a full free trade agreement between India and Bhutan. The largest market for Bhutanese goods has been India. Almost 94% of all Bhutanese exports go to India, while 78% of all imports come from that country. Bhutan did neither import or export to other countries prior to the 1970s. The 1972 trade agreement between India and Bhutan is up for renewal every 10 years. Bhutan, a landlocked and least developed nation, completely relies on foreign funding to pay for its development programme and startup expenses. India has provided Bhutan with the most foreign assistance. Tata Power constructed a hydroelectric project in Bhutan with the intention of boosting the country's economy by creating jobs and meeting India's rising energy demands. The Indian government is now participating in several Bhutanese projects, such as those involving hydroelectric dams, the cement industry, highways, etc. Bhutan sells power to India for 40% of its foreign exchange earnings. All of Bhutan's biggest projects, including:

- i. **Penden Cement Project:** A project constructed at a cost of NU 142 million, was fully funded by India.
- ii. **Chukkha Hydroelectricity Project:** This project was built by India and handed over to the Government of Bhutan in 1991.

- iii. **Paro Airport:** India provided financial and technical assistance in the construction of Bhutan's only Airport, Paro.
- iv. **Tala Hydroelectric Project:** This project was funded by India by way of 60 per cent grant and 40 per cent loan at 9 per cent of interest. BHEL of India is the supplier of the generating plant of this project.
- v. **Kurichhu Hydroelectric Project:** It is funded by India and NHPC of India is the turn key contractor of the project.
- vi. **Dunsam Cement Plant:** This is a joint venture between ACC India Ltd. and the Royal Government of Bhutan and is envisaged to produce 5,00,000 tons per year.
- vii. **Roads and Highways:** The project Dantak of the Border Roads Organization of India was raised in Bhutan in 1961. All the major highways, helipads and 15000 Kilometres of roads to difficult mountainous terrains in Bhutan have been built under this project.

The Government of India grants scholarships are granted to about 50 Bhutanese students annually in various institutions of India. India provides specialists and technical expertise to Bhutan in different fields. Sherubtse College is the only degree college of Bhutan affiliated to the University of Delhi. Many Indian teachers are also posted in this college.

India-Bhutan Border

Over 200 kilometres of the Indo-Bhutan border are marked by a zigzag territorial boundary, which terrorists may easily sneak across to reach the Indian districts of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, and Nalbari. Three militant organisations, the Kamtapuri Liberation Organisation, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, and the United Liberation Front of Assam, are engaged in combat with the Indian Security Forces from bases within Bhutan. For over ten years, these rebel factions have agitated for their own independence and breakaway from India. In reality, India has insisted time and time again that a combined army operation between Bhutan and India be launched against these extremists. Bhutan seems to be wary of taking such action, however, for fear that the militants would retaliate against the innocent residents of Bhutan who live in the 304 villages that are close to the insurgent camps.

Bhutan has also attempted to engage these terrorist organisations in peaceful dialogue in the meantime. The announcement that the rebel groups had not responded to calls for new departure negotiations during the previous two years was made by the bhutanese home minister in July 2003. To resolve the issue of their peaceful departure from the forcefully seized portions of Bhutan, the Royal government of Bhutan issued new formal invitations to the three Indian separatist rebel organisations for discussions in Thimphu. The National Assembly of Bhutan decided in August 2003 to make one more effort at diplomacy to persuade the separatist leaders to dismantle their camps in order to avoid military action. However, when the militants were unable to destroy their facilities, Jigme Singye Wangchuk, the Bhutanese ruler, issued orders to expel the rebels from the Himalayan Kingdom. The ULFA base at Phukatong was taken over by the Bhutanese army. The Bhutanese government refused the ULFA's offer of a cease-fire, therefore all of the militants were caught and eventually turned over to India. The ULFA had no other option. Bhutan's initiative has been recognized as a regional cooperation model that other countries need to support.

In September 2003, Wangchuk, the King of Bhutan, travelled to India. On September 15, 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for a thorough project assessment on the 870 MW Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Project. Additionally, discussions on the issue of rebels and

their anti-Indian activities were undertaken. The geostrategic significance of Bhutan has, nevertheless, made the relations between the two nations important. Without a doubt, the security requirements form the basis of this strong connection. As a result, we may conclude that Indo-Bhutan relations have not been static and have benefited both nations' shared interests [10].

The Amochu reservoir, Kuri Gongri, Chamkarchhu, and Kholongchhu hydropower projects are preparing for thorough project studies as a result of the four most recent agreements that have been completed. In addition, talks are ongoing for a Sankosh plant with a capacity of 4,000 MW. A significant information technology project totaling 205 crores has been agreed upon between India and Bhutan. Numerous government employees, educators, businesses, and youngsters from remote areas will get computer training as part of this effort. India would create a sizable undergraduate medical school, and other agreements would include the management of illegal drug trafficking. King Wangchuck was persuaded during talks by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that India wants Bhutan's democratic experiment to be successful. Despite the fact that India and other nations like the US and Britain would want to abolish monarchy in Bhutan, the people of Bhutan are highly loyal to the King and are happy under his leadership.

It is thought that Bhutan ought to be a part of India since it is fully reliant on India for access to the sea and is bordered by it on three sides. Bhutan and China share borders, but India argues that Bhutan cannot adopt a pro-China stance. King Jigme Wangchuck and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's meetings revealed India's interest in defense and security cooperation with Bhutan. Bhutan's external relations are governed by India according to a 1949 pact between the two nations. Article 2 of the treaty stipulates that Bhutan must follow India's guidance when managing its foreign affairs, while Article 6 forbids Bhutan from bringing in weapons, ammunition, machinery, warlike supplies, or stockpiles without India's aid and consent. Even though there have been several analyses and debates of this agreement, Bhutan is still unable to develop its own autonomous policy.

It is not enough to just amend the terms of the 1949 treaty. India must acknowledge Bhutan as a sovereign state. The King of Bhutan, not the Indian government, should decide whether to buy deadly or non-lethal weaponry. Ironically, Bhutan may only purchase non-lethal military supplies and equipment, while New Delhi must approve the purchase of other types. Bhutan has to start making its own choices and get the same treatment as other nations of the globe. Joining SAARC at this time will help bring South Asian countries closer together. The historically distinct bilateral relationships, which are characterized by trust and understanding, have become better through time. Today, there is a lot of collaboration in the area of economic growth, particularly in the hydropower industry, which benefits both parties.

High Level Visits

The custom of frequent visits and broad exchanges of views at the highest levels between the two nations has preserved this particular connection. His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, visited India in 2013 as the Chief Guest for the 64th Republic Day festivities, which was preceded by EAM, Shri Salman Khurshid's trip to Bhutan. From January 6–10, 2014, His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen undertook an official visit to India at the request of the Indian President. Their Majesties thanked the President for inviting them to be the first visitors to the Rashtrapati Bhawan's newly renovated guest wing. From August 30 to September 4, 2013, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay travelled to India for the first time since becoming prime minister. It was his first trip there on business. He was joined by several top RGOB officials, including the Foreign Minister and his wife. The President,

Vice President, Prime Minister, as well as other ministers and dignitaries, met with PMTT. A support package from the GOI for Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan was decided upon during the visit. During his tour to India, PMTT also went to Hyderabad.

DISCUSSION

The 1953 Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement was a pivotal moment in the history of ties between India and Sri Lanka. This conversation seeks to provide a thorough understanding of the agreement and its effects. Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister of India, and Sir John Kotelawala, the prime minister of Sri Lanka, were honored with the agreement's namesake. It was created in the context of Sri Lanka's complicated socio-political environment, which featured a sizeable community of Indian Tamil immigrants who had come to the island during the colonial period. Important concerns relating to the Indian Tamil population in Sri Lanka were addressed by the Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement. As many Indian Tamils were stateless or had difficulties obtaining Sri Lankan citizenship, this was one of the main issues. The agreement aimed to speed up the citizenship process by giving these people a way to receive legal recognition and take advantage of the rights and benefits that come with citizenship. Another significant topic covered in the deal was repatriation.

It sought to make it easier for Indian Tamils to return to India voluntarily if they so wished, whether for family or economic reasons. In order to ensure a quick and organized process, the agreement created processes and procedures for repatriation. A key part of the Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement was the protection of rights. It aimed to ensure the Indian Tamil community's participation and integration within Sri Lankan society by defending their social, cultural, and political rights. The pact sought to promote equality and combat prejudice in order to create a peaceful atmosphere for all populations. The complicated negotiating process that resulted in the accord required many rounds of negotiations between Indian and Sri Lankan authorities. The final accord constituted a careful balancing act between the objectives of the two nations and those of the Tamil population in India. The Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement had a significant influence on India-Sri Lanka's bilateral ties. It established a precedent for future diplomatic interactions and strengthened a base of understanding and collaboration. The accord also gave the Indian Tamil population more legal protection, prospects for socioeconomic progress, and real improvements in their quality of life.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the 1953 Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement, which marked a turning point in India and Sri Lanka's diplomatic ties, is of utmost historical importance. The aims, main clauses, and subsequent effects of the agreement have all been highlighted in this chapter, which also provides a thorough review of it. The agreement sought to promote inclusion, peace, and social justice by resolving the concerns of the Indian Tamil population in Sri Lanka over citizenship, repatriation, and rights protection. The negotiating process and the agreement that resulted improved bilateral ties and opened the door for further collaboration between the two countries. The Nehru-Kotelawala Agreement is evidence of leaders' desire to address issues affecting minorities and strive towards a more just and united society. Its legacy lives on, serving as a constant reminder of the value of diplomacy, communication, and mutual understanding in addressing challenging sociopolitical problems.

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CHAPTER 12

AN OVERVIEW ABOUT INDO-NEPAL RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

The Indo-Nepal relations have long been characterized by a complex interplay of historical, geographical, cultural, and political factors. This chapter provides an overview of the Indo-Nepal relationship, examining its evolution, key issues, and implications for both countries. Starting with a historical perspective, it delves into the shared cultural and linguistic ties that have fostered close people-to-people connections over the centuries. The chapter then explores the multifaceted nature of the bilateral relationship, encompassing trade, security cooperation, development assistance, and cross-border movements. It also highlights the challenges and occasional strains that have surfaced in this relationship, including border disputes, economic imbalances, and geopolitical considerations. By analyzing the present dynamics and future prospects, the chapter offers insights into the significance of the Indo-Nepal relations for regional stability, economic growth, and people's well-being in both nations.

KEYWORDS:

Economic Imbalances, Geopolitical Considerations, Historical Relationship, Regional Stability, Security Cooperation, Trade Relations.

INTRODUCTION

In the Himalayas, the Kingdom of Nepal is positioned halfway between China and India. It is a feudal state, and there are several issues across the nation. Up until 1950, the Rana family's hereditary Prime Ministers presided over the Kingdom, and the development of the nation was disregarded. There were rebellions against the Ranas in 1950 and 1951. India assisted King Tribhuvan Bir Vikram Shah in seizing control of the government. After his death in 1955, Crown Prince Mahendra succeeded him. King Mahendra disbanded the B-led cabinet in 1960. Koirala, P. Concerned about the events in Nepal, the Indian government voiced its worry. The Nepalese government charged India of inciting unrest there. As a result, the relationships between the two nations deteriorated. Relations with Nepal were not given much weight in India's foreign policy during the early years of its independence. Two things were to blame for India's lack of involvement in Nepal.

India was fatalistically certain in its relationship with Nepal. The physical, historical, and cultural connections between India and Nepal were seen as the strong foundations on which the two nations were destined to preserve and strengthen their relations. India became complacent about its relations with Nepal as a result of Nepal's perception that its foreign policy must continue to focus on its interests as being reliant upon relationships with India. Because of its excessive participation in world issues, India almost ignored its connections with its minor neighbors, including Nepal. Friendship between Nepal and India was seen as essential to its historical development. However, Nepal found this approach to be unsatisfactory. Due to a lack of other options, it first accepted the role. But later, when China began to assert itself as a significant player in international affairs, Nepal had no qualms in attempting to win China's

friendship and cooperation. Then, in order to protect its own security and other interests, it decided to disregard India's worries and interests [1].

As a result, we may infer that India was partially to blame for Nepal's search for an alternative to India due to its lack of interest in Nepal. The absence of Indian effort in this area during the period 1947–1955, on the other hand, had a negative impact on Indo–Nepal ties. India thereafter had to be satisfied with limited success in its efforts to restore the damage. The view of the theory for India's unique relations with Nepal dictated Indian foreign policy. On December 6, 1950, Indian Prime Minister Nehru said in the Parliament, We recognise Nepal as an independent nation and wish her success. However, even a little kid is aware that India is a necessary stopover on the way to Nepal. No other nation can thus have the same close ties to Nepal as we have.

This Indian viewpoint was seen by Nepal as an effort to adopt a big brotherly attitude towards Nepal and was accompanied by the statement, We would like every other country to appreciate the intimate geographical and cultural relationship that exists between India and Nepal. Although it agreed to the terms of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India, it was apprehensive. Therefore, it was only natural that Nepal would forge relationships with China and try to strike a balance between India and China when there were significant tensions and conflicts in ties between China and India. After 1960, this shift in Nepalese mentality became very apparent, putting pressure on relations between India and Nepal. India made an effort to change its stance towards Nepal by adopting an appeasement policy, but the damage was not remedied. Even Nepal was urged to utilise China to influence India's desired policy choices. As a result, the special relations with Nepal idea turned out to be detrimental to Indo-Nepal relations [2].

India and Nepal have tight relationships, but they are also complicated by issues related to geography, the economy, large power vs little power issues, and shared ethnic and linguistic identities that cross the boundaries of the two countries. With the Treaty of Peace and Friendship and accompanying letters, which established security ties between the two governments and an arrangement that regulates both bilateral commerce and trade passing through Indian land, New Delhi and Kathmandu began their entwined connection in 1950. The 1950 Treaty and related letters required both parties to inform each other of any serious friction or misunderstanding with any neighboring state likely to cause any breach in the friendly relations currently subsisting between the two governments and stated that neither government shall tolerate any threat to the security of the other by a foreign aggressor. These agreements established a special relationship between the two nations, giving Nepal preferential status economically and giving Nepalese in India the same access to employment and higher education as Indian residents [3].

Soon after China became a communist nation in 1949, this change started taking efforts to expand its authority and influence. It wasted little time in annexing Tibet and making an effort to strengthen its position in Asia. India was concerned about the developments. On the one hand, it set out to forge ties of friendship with China, and on the other, it made the choice to include the Himalayan monarchy in her circle of friends. In the 1950s, India made diplomatic efforts to halt the spread of Chinese influence in Nepal while also highlighting its deep historical and cultural ties to the country. To protect its security and other interests, the Himalayan monarchy felt the need to forge relationships with both China and India. The Indo-Nepal relationship is still significantly influenced by the China factor. Right now, it looks that democratic Nepal is more disposed to support the idea of cordial cooperation with India. However, in the past, the China factor unquestionably slowed down the growth of India and Nepal's collaboration.

T. P. Acharya, the prime minister of Nepal, was unmistakably pro-Chinese. He said that Nepal would be happy to serve as a conduit between China and India when he visited India in 1956. Following Acharya's trip to China in 1956, Chou En-Lai, the premier of China, paid a visit to Nepal in January 1957. He explained to the Nepalese people that the Chinese and the Nepalese had a common ancestry. Perhaps the Chinese Premier wanted to connect China with Sikkim, Nepal, and Bhutan. The relationship between India and Nepal deteriorated when Acharya started to speak in Chou's language at international venues. He also commanded India to promote Nepalese nationalism in its own self-interest.

In 1956, Nepal was visited by Indian President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He gave the Nepalese people assurances during his visit that neither India nor any of its territories has any plans to meddle in Nepal's internal affairs. In 1957, Dr. K. I. Singh was appointed prime minister of Nepal. While the media in Nepal prevented him from reversing the anti-India tone of his predecessor, his policy was unmistakably pro-India. In an effort to strengthen connections between Nepal and China, P. Koirala, who took office as prime minister of Nepal in 1959, made an agreement with China about Mount Everest, which received harsh criticism from the Indian media. King Mahendra removed Koirala from office, and several Nepali Congress leaders were detained. Others escaped to India. India was accused by the King of fostering anti-Nepal protests, further deteriorating relations between the two nations [4].

It is undisputed that the Kingdom had a difficult century. Its isolation, which was once a benefit, is now a disadvantage. Due to its geographical isolation, Nepal has been deprived of the majority of the advantages of modernity and economic integration. This solitude has, at least in part, been brought on by me. India is to the south of it, where it has all of its natural markets. The Nepalese aristocracy has seen closer economic ties with India as the main danger to their independence ever since the reign of King Mahendra, the father of King Birendra. Due to this, manufactured items from Nepal entirely replaced Indian products on the Indian market. As a consequence, Nepal was unable to industrialize and generate employment outside of the conventional economic sector by taking advantage of the developing industrial markets to the south. As a result, even by the standards of a destitute subcontinent, Nepal has remained poor. Massive levels of unemployment have been achieved, and young people, who face an uncertain future, have become dangerously irrational.

India provided assistance to Nepal in building the airport in Kathmandu for the Kingdom. India has constructed Simra's fine weather airport in addition to three all-weather airports at Bhairava, Janakpur, and Biratnagar. China, however, had by this point started to play a significant role in Nepal's political and economic relations. The choice of Nepal will be impartial between India and China, King Mahendra reiterated. Due to misunderstandings that arose in the 1960s as a result of a variety of problems, ties between India and Nepal have not always been friendly. In an effort to clear up these misconceptions, Sardar Swaran Singh travelled to Nepal in 1964, and as a result, the two countries signed an agreement. When the transit deal expired in March 1989, the King, who was up against severe resistance from various political groupings to restore democracy, blamed India in an effort to distract public attention. However, under the leadership of Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Nepal became a constitutional monarchy, and relations with India returned to their pre-revolutionary state. Recently, Nepal's monarchy was replaced with a republican, democratic state [5].

Nepal initially embraced tight ties with India in the 1950s, but as the number of Nepalese living and working there rose and India's economic influence grew in the 1960s and beyond, so did Nepalese discontent with the special relationship. When Nepal pushed for significant changes to the commerce and transit pact in its benefit and publicly criticised India's 1975 acquisition of Sikkim, which was seen as part of Greater Nepal, tensions began to rise in the mid-1970s.

In 1975, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev urged that Nepal be acknowledged as a zone of peace on a global scale. China and Pakistan backed him in this. According to New Delhi, if the king's plan did not violate the terms of the 1950 treaty, an extension of non-alignment, it was unnecessary. If it was a rejection of the unique relationship, it may pose a danger to India's security and could not be supported. Nepal renewed the suggestion in 1984, but India made no comment. In 1990, 112 nations had endorsed the plan thanks to Nepal's persistent promotion of it in international fora.

The installation of King Birendra took place in February 1975. He supported the notion of Nepal being recognized as a Zone of Peace. This idea would have guaranteed Nepal's security and neutrality if it had been approved by major powers and neighbors. King Birendra reaffirmed this request in 1980 in New Delhi at a formal event for the Zone of Peace. The notion of Nepal as a Zone of Peace was aggressively promoted by the Nepalese diplomats, and it was publicly stated in 1985 that up to 58 nations had endorsed it. However, Nepal's two neighbors, India and Bhutan, as well as the Super Power Soviet Union, did not advance. India didn't agree since it thought the argument's main point was undoubtedly counterproductive to its interests [6].

In response to a persistent demand from Nepal, India agreed to separate trade and transit treaties in 1978. When the two treaties came due for renewal in 1988, India called for a single commerce and transit pact as a result of Nepal's failure to comply with its demands. After it, Nepal adopted a hardline stance that caused a significant crisis in ties between India and Nepal. The two accords came to an end on March 23, 1989, after two extensions, leading to a virtual Indian economic embargo of Nepal that lasted until late April 1990. Although economic concerns played a significant part in the conflict between the two nations, Indian discontent over Nepal's 1988 purchase of Chinese weapons also had a significant impact. Treaties and letters that were signed between India and Nepal in 1959 and 1965 placed Nepal in India's security zone and prohibited the acquisition of weaponry without India's consent. India emphasized on evaluating India-Nepal ties as a whole and connected security with economic connections. Worsening economic situations caused Nepal to modify its political structure, forcing the monarch to enact a parliamentary democracy. As a result, Nepal was obliged to back down. The new administration aimed to quickly mend friendly ties with India [7].

The 1990s

The goal of forging closer relations with democratic India has gained momentum as a result of Nepal's democratic process operating systematically in the 1990s. As a result, both India and Nepal have been working to establish cordial, amicable, and highly cooperative connections between their two nations. Unfortunately, the history of friendship between India and Nepal has been rather easy. Particularly between 1962 and 1990, numerous irritants prohibited the two nations from establishing close-knit relations. Their interactions were typically kind and cooperative, but neither seamless nor especially so. There were ups and downs throughout these. Relationships between India and Nepal were strained by the Nepalese desire to be recognised as a zone of peace, trade and transit agreements, and contacts with China.

Girja Prasad Koirala took office as Nepal's prime minister in May 1991. During his visit to India, Koirala gave the Indian government assurances about his nation's assistance. The connection between India and Nepal was further cemented when India included the Nepali language to the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution in August 1992. In spite of India's greatest attempts, the Nepalese did not cooperate in order to improve ties with India. The purchase of anti-aircraft weaponry by Nepal from China in 1987–1988 angered India since it showed that the Chinese had not only gained political access to the palace but were also

prepared to play by their rules. Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, as a result of this, used some economic pressure. In Nepal, where friendly relations with China were being developed, there was a strong anti-India sentiment. But in the late 1990s and the early 2000s, relations between India and the Himalayan Kingdom were at an all-time high [8].

India quickly stepped forward to offer full cooperation to the new democratic government after the Nepalese people were successful in overthrowing the monarchical authoritarian system, which had been operating under the guise of a Panchayat System. This adjustment drew India and Nepal closer together. However, Nepal's communists continued to refer to India as a big brother both while they were in power and when they were in opposition. The result was a gradual and uneven growth in Indo-Nepalese relations. Thankfully, India and Nepal have been effectively fostering their relations since 1996 in order to achieve the ultimate goal of establishing a high level of bilateral, sub-regional, and regional cooperation. This fresh attitude, methodology, and dedication are evident in the River Mahakali and Power Sharing Agreement. The process of fostering Indo-Nepalese cordial collaboration in all areas of bilateral ties has been greatly aided by India's Gujral Doctrine. When Nepal's Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and India's Prime Minister V.P. Singh met in New Delhi in June 1990, the special security partnership between New Delhi and Kathmandu was once again formed.

Nepal and India inked new, independent trade and transit treaties as well as other economic agreements during the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to India in December 1991. These accords were made to provide Nepal more advantages economically. When Nepal's Prime Minister, Manmohan Adhikary, visited New Delhi in April 1995 and insisted on a significant revision of the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty, it looked that Indian-Nepalese ties were undergoing yet another reevaluation. Adhikary wanted to strengthen connections with China while also pursuing more economic independence for his landlocked country in response to his Indian hosts' conciliatory remarks about the pact. The signing of the Treaty for Integrated Development of Mahakali Basin by the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal on February 6, 1996, marked a turning point in bilateral relations. It became known as the Mahakali Rivers Treaty in the public eye. This pact contained a commitment to establish and build the Sarada and Tanakpur barrages as well as the massive 2,000 MW Pancheshwar Hydroelectric Project during an eight-year period. According to an equal cost-sharing arrangement, India and Nepal were to put up the Pancheshwar Hydel Power Project together. The Tanakpur Barrage was to provide Nepal with 70 million kilowatts of uninterrupted, free electricity yearly, as well as 1,000 cusecs of water during the monsoons and 300 cusecs of water during the lean season. The establishment of the Mahakali River Commission, whose duties included overseeing, coordinating, and inspecting the agreement's performance, was approved by both governments.

It was given the authority to provide solutions for any issues that could come up during the implementation of the agreement. Along with the Mahakali deal, a linked agreement for the building of 22 bridges in the Kohalpur-Mahakali region of Nepal was also signed [9]. Since 1996, their relationships have significantly improved, and the people and leaders of the two nations are ready to not only maintain the trend but also to broaden and deepen it. The only way for Nepal to survive is to use its enormous power potential, and India's development goals need the availability of electricity. Both nations stand to benefit significantly from the strengthening of their relations, which by itself may assist them in addressing issues like as poverty, illiteracy, poor health, and other socioeconomic necessities. Both countries should now confidently go down the path to growth via partnership. To restrict the anti-Indian actions of Pakistan's ISI, smugglers, and drug dealers on the Nepalese side, Nepal must take prompt and required action.

India must continue to maintain a policy of good neighborliness with all of its neighbours, but especially with Nepal because it is the nation closest to India and because there are no significant issues between the two that cannot be resolved through negotiations based on mutual trust, maturity, and openness. On June 1, 2001, Nepal saw a tragedy of unfathomable proportions when Dipendra, the country's 29-year-old crown prince, went on the rampage at Kathmandu's Narayanhiti Palace and massacred the entire royal family. Then, it seems, he committed suicide. The Indian administration said that it had no desire to take a proactive role in Nepal's perplexing situation, calling it tense and complicated. In India, there was worry that suspicions surrounding Gyanendra's rise to power may upset the fragile balance between the monarchy and party politics, particularly in light of the Maoist uprising.

After King Gyanendra assumed power in 2005, ties between Nepal and India deteriorated. However, Nepal's Prime Minister Prachanda visited India in September 2008 after the return of democracy in that country in 2008. He spoke of a fresh beginning for the bilateral ties between the two nations. I am going back to Nepal as a satisfied person, he said. I'll announce the start of a new era to Nepalis back home. The time has arrived to implement a radical shift in bilateral ties. He met with the foreign minister and prime minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee and Manmohan Singh. On behalf of the new government, I assure you that we are committed to make a fresh start, he said. He urged India to support Nepal's efforts to write a new constitution and to make investments in the country's infrastructure and tourist sector.

An agreement to restart water negotiations after a 4-year break gave Indo-Nepalese relations an additional boost in 2008. Shanker Prasad Koirala, the secretary for water resources in Nepal, said that the Nepal-India Joint Committee on Water Resources Meeting resolved to begin rebuilding the Kosi embankment when the water level recedes. The two Prime Ministers expressed their delight with the long-standing close, friendly, and broad links between their states during the September visit of the Nepali Prime Minister to New Delhi. They also pledged their support and collaboration for further solidifying the relationship. Additionally, a three-tier structure at the ministerial, secretary, and technical levels will be developed to advance negotiations between the two parties on the development of water resources. Politically, India expressed its readiness to support initiatives aimed at bringing about peace in Nepal. Prachanda, the prime minister of Nepal, received a commitment from Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee that he will extend all possible help for peace and development [10].

Due to a sequence that implied Gautama Buddha was born in India, the Bollywood movie *Chandni Chowk to China* was banned in Nepal in 2008. All Indian films should be commercially boycotted, several demonstrators said. India had issues with several of its neighbours on the eve of the new century. Till the end of the 1980s, Afghanistan was a nation with which it maintained cordial ties despite the Taliban dictatorship that was in power there at the time. It had a protracted disagreement with Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir and was subject to cross-border incursions by Islamic terrorists headquartered in Pakistan. Taliban were among the militants. The hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane from Nepal was a significant setback for its security objectives. Pakistan, which believed its strategic depth had improved in regard to India, had tense relations with the Taliban. Since there were still border disputes in the Northeast and the Aksai Chin region of Ladakh in Kashmir, Sino-Indian ties had not yet returned to normal. India was shocked by the Nepalese hijacking event. India had expected that the sole Hindu monarchy in the world's territory would stay in friendly hands. Unfortunately, it was exploited to carry out a terrorist assault against the aircraft of the nation with the highest concentration of Hindus.

The Taliban declared Israel, the US, and India to be mutual enemies. Pakistan joined the US in its fight against the Taliban and offered crucial assistance. The US and India had forged a strategic alliance. The US helped Nepal with its armament needs as the Maoist insurgency grew. India did not object as it had when Nepal bought weapons in 1988. Nepal's strategic significance in the area rose when its close neighbours, India, China, and Pakistan, a fellow SAARC member and part of the same subcontinent, all become nuclear powers. This is particularly relevant given that South Asia is anticipated to have a high conflict potential region in the near future owing to the availability of missiles that can deliver nuclear weapons and the fact that India and Pakistan are both nuclear-armed states. The fallout from radioactive radiation in the area brought on by nuclear testing in Sinkiang, Baluchistan, or Pokhran in Rajasthan has not spared Nepal.

India-Nepal and the Maoist Insurgency

Insurgency in Nepal's Jhapa District might endanger India's authority over the whole northeast if it were to expand to Chicken's Neck. In September 2004 in Delhi, a gathering of chief ministers from states that were affected by movements like the Maoists in Nepal was organized. Senior government representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Maharashtra, as well as the Chief Ministers of those states, attended. India also has a vested interest in seeing the Maoist insurgency in Nepal come to a peaceful conclusion. The Maoist insurgency has expanded quickly thanks to the porous Indo-Nepal border, which made it simple for the rebels to find refuge on the other side. The insurgency might have been significantly reduced if the border had been effectively managed, including by monitoring the movements of citizens in communities near the border and issuing identification cards. Nepal can potentially be a desirable location for FDI coming from India. India is already Nepal's biggest investor. For Indian investors, Nepal would be appealing because to its alluring incentives, welcoming attitude towards investors, affordable sites, affordable labour, and easily trainable manpower. India invests mostly in the following fields in Nepal:

- a) Tourism.
- b) Consumer durables.
- c) Garments.
- d) Carpets.

Hindustan Lever, Colgate, and other Indian corporations established factories in Nepal with the intention of exporting their final goods to India. Indian investors may choose to consider the tourism and hydropower industries. For Indian visitors travelling to the nation for both tourism and religious purposes, Nepal is a desirable destination. Young Indians are also travelling to the nation in greater numbers for adventure and honeymoon travel. Since 2004, private airlines from India have begun to travel to Nepal, including Air Sahara and Jet Airways. Additionally, there are opportunities for India and Nepal to collaborate in the hotel management industry and for the growth of health tourism. Chinese visitors also go to nations like Nepal. For pilgrimage tourism, many Chinese visitors go to Nepal and India to visit cities like Lumbini, Bodhgaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar. Many pilgrims from India go via Nepal to reach Mansarovar. Due to its extreme altitude fluctuation and plenty of water, Nepal has one of the biggest potentials for the development of hydroelectric power.

Nepal's ability to produce electricity is estimated to be 83,000 MW. North India's need for electric power has grown significantly in recent years. The development of hydroelectric

electricity in Nepal is something that both bilateral and multilateral donor organizations are interested in sponsoring. Nepal has, however, expressed some concern that India is hesitant to depend on another nation for such a crucial supply of energy. Using water resources in partnership with India has not always been successful for Nepal. The first significant river project was the Kosi Project. Bihar benefited from the project primarily because it helped with flood management. Considering the magnitude of the project, the electricity generated would be of very limited use to Nepal. Similar to this, the Gandak Project, which used a different large river in Nepal, was mainly for irrigation, benefiting India's UP and Bihar more than Nepal.

DISCUSSION

A lot has been said about the ties between India and Nepal because of their complexity and historical importance. This section explores the relationship's many facets, emphasizing important problems, difficulties, and possibilities for both nations. The strong cultural links that unite the people of both countries are an important component of Indo-Nepal relations. Due to their shared religious, linguistic, and historical background, the two nations have grown closer via their shared cultural affinities. Additionally, the two countries' bilateral commerce has been a crucial element of their relationship, with the flow of products and services promoting economic expansion and progress. The dynamics of trade, however, have not been without difficulties, such as worries about trade imbalances and the need for equitable market access. Border conflicts have also sometimes affected ties, with disagreements between the two nations over territory claims and delineation concerns.

Geopolitical factors have also significantly influenced the development of ties between India and Nepal. Due to their close proximity to more powerful regional nations, both India and Nepal, who are neighbors, have seen an effect on their strategic engagements and alignments. Nevertheless, despite occasional difficulties, Indo-Nepal relations have also offered many chances for collaboration, notably in areas like security coordination, development aid, and interpersonal interactions. The pursuit of similar objectives and a shared commitment to regional stability have made it easier to work together to handle cross-border security issues and advance socioeconomic development. Overall, the review of Indo-Nepal ties highlights how intricately historical, cultural, economic, and geopolitical issues are woven into this relationship. A greater comprehension of the dynamics and significance of the Indo-Nepal relations may be attained by looking at the possibilities and challenges that present themselves within this framework.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the relationship between India and Nepal is evidence of the nations' extensive historical, cultural, and geographic ties. The bonds between India and Nepal have lasted through centuries of shared history and mutual reliance, despite difficulties including border conflicts, economic disparities, and geopolitical factors periodically straining the relationship. Both countries must address these issues via direct communication, diplomatic dialogues, and a commitment to finding win-win solutions. The relationship between India and Nepal has enormous potential to promote regional stability, economic expansion, and improved people-to-people contacts. India and Nepal can create a stronger and more successful future by building on their current cultural similarities, fostering commercial linkages, and taking care of each other's worries. In the end, the success of Indo-Nepal ties depends on a common understanding of collaboration, trust, and respect, which will result in a long-lasting relationship that benefits the people of both countries and adds to the general growth and stability of the region.

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CHAPTER 13

AN OVERVIEW ABOUT INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

The Indo-Pakistan Relations have long been characterized by a complex and tumultuous history, shaped by a range of political, historical, and territorial factors. This paper's aims to provide an overview of the key dynamics that have influenced the relationship between these neighboring nations, emphasizing the recurring themes of territorial disputes, cross-border conflicts, nuclear deterrence, and diplomatic efforts for peace. By examining the historical context and recent developments, this chapter shed light on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Indo-Pakistan relations, and the potential implications for regional stability and global security.

KEYWORDS:

Historical Animosity, Nuclear Deterrence, Peace Process, Regional Stability, Territorial Conflicts.

INTRODUCTION

India wants to have cordial, cooperative ties with Pakistan, which call for an atmosphere free from terrorism and bloodshed. When the Prime Minister and then-Pakistani Prime Minister Gilani met in April 2010 on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit, the PM expressed India's desire to settle any remaining concerns via bilateral discussion. The two foreign ministers and the two foreign secretaries met again to discuss the matter. At the latter meeting, it was formally decided to resume communication on all issues, including Sir Creek, the Tulbul Navigation Project, the Wullar Barrage, and counter-terrorism and humanitarian issues at the level of the Home Secretary, CBMs, Jammu and Kashmir, and the promotion of friendly exchanges at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, and Siachen at the Defense Secretary level. The two nations have since made a number of attempts to improve inter-country ties. Travel over the LoC and commerce across J&K, which were started in 2005 and 2008, respectively, are significant steps in this approach. Additionally, a new visa agreement was struck between India and Pakistan in September 2012 during the visit to Pakistan of the then-external affairs minister. The bilateral visa system has been loosened as a result of this agreement [1].

The third round of the conversation, which started in September 2012 when the Commerce Secretaries met in Islamabad, has now been completed twice. The third round of discussions on conventional and unconventional CBMs took place in New Delhi in December 2012. On March 4, 2014, the Working Group on Cross-LoC Trade and Travel CBMs met in New Delhi to examine a variety of topics, including the need to enhance standard operating procedures. In the elections conducted on May 11, 2013, Pakistan's PML party obtained a significant majority, enabling its leader, Mian Nawaz Sharif, to create a new government. The Prime Minister emphasized his wish to collaborate with the incoming Pakistani administration to chart a new course in bilateral relations in his letter of congratulations. Before Nawaz Sharif officially took office, PM's Special Envoy Ambassador S. K. Lambah met with him on May 27, 2013, in Lahore, to personally deliver the message. The new Pakistani PM appreciated this gesture. As Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Envoy, Ambassador Shahryar Khan also travelled to

India and met with the PM. During their meeting, he also gave the PM a handwritten letter from the PM [2].

The most significant Confidence Building Measure between the two countries, Pakistan's assurance that the territory under its control would not be used for anti-Indian activities, and India's call for Pakistan to maintain ceasefire and uphold the sanctity of the Line of Control formed the basis of bilateral dialogue after the heinous attack on August 6, 2013, in which five Indian soldiers were killed along the LOC with the help of the Pakistani army. It was said that the Pak Army's unjustified attacks on the LOC will have an impact on our bilateral relations [3]. On September 29, 2013, Prime Minister Singh and PM Nawaz Sharif met in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. They both agreed that improving the situation along the LoC, where there had been numerous ceasefire violations and incidents, was a prerequisite for the relationship moving forward, which they both desired. They made the decision to give the Directors General of Military Operations the job of coming up with practical solutions for maintaining the ceasefire and restoring it. The DGMOs' meeting was held at Wagah on December 24, 2013.

Terrorism

The primary source of worry in bilateral ties continues to be terrorism coming from areas under Pakistan's authority. This is the exact reason Pakistan has been urged by India to provide a strong and unwavering guarantee that neither its territory nor any other land under its control would be used to support or harbour terrorist organizations that target India. India has repeatedly emphasized to its counterparts the importance of Pakistan fulfilling its high-level pledges that the region under its control will not be exploited in any way for anti-Indian operations. Pakistan must act decisively to destroy the terrorist networks, organizations, and infrastructure that are present on its own soil if it hopes to maintain regional security. However, organizations that have received international sanctions, like Lashkar-e-Toiba, continue to operate in Pakistan under other names. Hafiz Saeed, the head of the LeT, and his supporters continue to promote violence against India. In addition, prominent terrorists like Masood Azhar and wanted criminals from India have reemerged in Pakistan in recent months.

Progress in the continuing investigation into the 2008 Mumbai terrorist assault in Pakistan is seen as a key indicator of Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism that originates on its territory. However, the anti-terrorism court trial of seven people accused of taking part in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks has moved at a glacial pace. The trial has been subject to several adjournments, absences of solicitors and frequent substitutions of judges and prosecutors. In September 2013, a Pakistani judicial commission made its second trip to India and cross-examined key prosecution witnesses. On September 29, 2013, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stated in a speech to the press in New York that Pakistan intended to take effective action to hold those responsible for the Mumbai attacks accountable, and that further progress would be made now that the Judicial Commission had returned to Pakistan after gathering testimony and evidence in India. But for one reason or another, hearings in the case keep being postponed [4].

Economic Ties

In 2012–13, the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan was officially recorded at \$2.6 billion. During this time, Pakistani exports to India surpassed the \$500 million barrier for the first time. Cotton, organic chemicals, food goods such prepared animal feed, vegetables, plastic items, man-made fibre, coffee, tea, and spices, colours, oil seeds, and olea are the main exports from India to Pakistan. Copper and copper products, fruits and nuts, cotton, salt, sulphur and earths and stones, organic chemicals, mineral fuels, rubber and plastic goods, wool, etc. are the main imports from Pakistan that India buys. The Look East Policy was a significant component

of India's foreign policy after the conclusion of the Cold War. India's ties to its neighbouring South East Asian nations during the Cold War were not particularly strong. The Indian government only realised the significance of these partnerships after the conclusion of the Cold War. As a result, the Look East Policy was implemented by the Narasimha Rao administration at the beginning of the 1990s. The policy's first emphasis was on re-establishing political and economic ties with South-East Asian nations.

The Look East Policy now places a strong emphasis on the development of the economically backward districts of the North East. By using ASEAN and the energy resources present in ASEAN members' nations like Myanmar, this is made feasible. The Look East Policy was created in 1992, not long after the Soviet Union fell and the Cold War came to an end. When visiting nations like South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, China, and Singapore, the then-Indian prime minister Narasimha Rao gave the strategy a boost. In 1992, India also joined the ASEAN as a discussion partner. India joined ASEAN as a summit-level partner in 1992 to support the Look East Policy. It also took part in a number of regional projects including BIMSTEC and the Ganga Mekong Cooperation. India was admitted to the East Asia Summit in December 2005 [5].

India's active involvement with ASEAN is supported by three pillars: commerce, culture, and connectivity. The relationship between India and ASEAN is positioned to advance economically. A services and investment free trade agreement between India and ASEAN is anticipated to be signed shortly. This would supplement the 2009-signed FTA on products, which has significantly increased bilateral commerce, which is now hovering around \$80 billion. By the two parties are now convinced that it can be scaled up to \$200 billion. The two-way investments are increasing: during the last 10 years, ASEAN has invested USD 27.9 billion in India, while India has invested USD 32.4 billion in ASEAN.

Milestones

The continuous voyage of India-ASEAN ties has passed numerous significant turning points since it was first launched in the early 1990s, which coincided with the opening of the Indian economy, and carried out with determination by the succeeding administrations in India. In 1992, India joined ASEAN as a sectoral discussion partner. In 1996, it was made a full dialogue partner. The leaders of India and the ASEAN nations met in New Delhi in December 2012 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of their annual summits and the 20th anniversary of their sectoral dialogue relationship. The ASEAN-India Vision Statement, which plots the future course of this multifaceted relationship, was the result of the summit, which saw the two sides elevate their ties to the level of a strategic partnership. The Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration for Narrowing the Development Gap, and a Drug Free ASEAN have all received strong support from India.

Act East

India's Look East strategy has evolved into a proactive Act East policy under the current Delhi government, which calls for rapid, all-encompassing interaction between the two growth poles of a dynamic Asia. A wave of two-way trips during the first several months of the Modi administration has shown this. In September 2014, President Pranab Mukherjee made a historic trip to Vietnam. In October of the same year, the prime minister of Vietnam paid a visit to New Delhi. Sushma Swaraj, the minister of external affairs, selected Myanmar as one of her first few overseas stops in August, when she met with a variety of ministers from both East Asian and ASEAN nations. She has already been to Singapore and Vietnam, and it seems that she will visit the majority of the other ASEAN nations in the months to come. India's foreign minister made a strong case for the necessity for an Act East strategy during her visit to

Singapore: Look East is no longer sufficient. now we need Act East policy [6].

- a) Currently, India's strategic place in the world has a significant effect on how it develops its policies, both globally and domestically. One such component is apparent in India's foreign policy, which very clearly demonstrates India's projection of its image as an impending global powerhouse by developing, maintaining, and strengthening partnerships with nations that are in its geographical vicinity or otherwise
- b) The majority of the world's nations have official and diplomatic connections with India. In contrast to some of its neighbors, India has amicable ties with some of them. However, India understands the need of keeping friendly relations with its neighbors in order to become a global force.
- c) The US-Indian policies often followed similar paths or deviated inadvertently due to interactions with Third World nations like Pakistan.
- d) There were hopes for a fresh partnership with the US after the Cold War and the rise of the National Front administration in India.
- e) In order to maintain its status as the sole Superpower in the world, the US sought to assess potential rivals. Naturally, India opposed both the US's stated goals and its attempt to establish a unipolar global order.
- f) Recently, there have been a lot more high-level visits and exchanges between India and the US. From September 26 to 30, 2014, Prime Minister Modi paid a visit to the US. While there, he met with President Obama, members of the US Congress, and political from a number of States and localities, as well as with officials of President Obama's Cabinet.
- g) Although Pakistan remained an active part of the American bloc, Indo-Soviet connections were enhanced during this time, and relations between China and Pakistan also improved during this time.
- h) Only two years after India attained independence, Mao Zedong declared the People's Republic of China independent on October 1, 1949. The two nations' ties began to improve with the rise of the People's Republic of China [7].
- i) Rajiv Gandhi visited China in December 1988, more than 25 years after the last time he had been there. A Joint Working Group was formed to examine the border issue during his visit to Beijing, which resulted in intensive bilateral negotiations and an agreement between the two nations to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas.
- j) The concept of trilateral cooperation between China, India, and Russia started to take form in the 1990s. The three countries' ties have significantly improved since that time.
- k) There are strong and cordial relations between India and the UK. With the visit of British Prime Minister David Cameron to India in 2010, when the Enhanced Partnership for the Future was established, the bilateral relationship, which was elevated to a strategic partnership in 2004, was further solidified.
- l) The Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Republic of India established bilateral connections, and their relations have historically been cordial and robust.

- m) Afghanistan joined SAARC as the organization's eighth member in April 2007, after India's approval of Afghan full membership. Due to ongoing tensions and issues with Pakistan, the newly democratically elected Afghan government increased its ties with India.
- n) India was a significant factor in the establishment of Mujibur Rehman's administration and the foundation of Bangladesh. India was a key factor in Bangladesh's separation from Pakistan. India has recently cooperated and helped out amid natural disasters.
- o) The nation had a solid base for its foreign policy, which prioritised collaboration with non-aligned countries and goodwill with Islamic states.
- p) The division of the Ganga's waters between India and Bangladesh is the most challenging issue. The issue of Chakma refugees affects the relations between India and Bangladesh as well. In the Indian state of Tripura, many migrants from Bangladesh have found asylum.
- q) Strategic, military, economic, and cultural ties between India and the Maldives are strong. A contract for the operation of aviation services between India and the Maldives was signed on February 13th, 1979 in New Delhi.
- r) The Maldives Institute of Technical Education, a project supported by the Government of India, was successfully completed and turned over to the Government of the Maldives on September 16, 1996.
- s) Sri Lanka adheres to the non-alignment policy, same as India and other developing nations. Sri Lanka has a significant position in India's foreign policy as one of its nearest neighbors with a long history of cultural links [8].
- t) Sri Lanka was instrumental in settling the India-China conflict when China invaded India in 1962.
- u) Strong bilateral ties were forged as a result of the close friendship between Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and the then-Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Sri Lanka has backed India's bid for a seat on the UN Security Council's permanent membership. India and Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Small Development Projects.
- v) Following the tsunami in December 2004, India was the first country to react to Sri Lanka's call for aid.
- w) Prior to 1947, the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan enjoyed a cordial but carefully distant relationship with British India. Even though Bhutan is a tiny landlocked nation and India is a major state, both nations have long had cordial political and economic ties. About 50 students from Bhutan get government of India scholarships each year at different Indian colleges [9].
- x) In the early years of India's independence, ties with Nepal were not given much weight in foreign policy.
- y) India itself forced Nepal to hunt for a replacement for itself due to its lack of interest in Nepal. In contrast, the absence of Indian effort in this area during the period 1947-1955,

had a negative impact on Indo–Nepal ties.

- z) Although relations between India and Nepal are close, they are also complicated by geography, the economy, issues with large power vs little power interactions, and shared ethnic and linguistic identities that cross the boundaries of the two nations [10].

DISCUSSION

The complicated nature and wide-ranging ramifications of Indo-Pakistan ties have been the focus of significant research and debate. These two South Asian neighbours have a troubled past filled with border battles, territory disputes, and enduring hostility. The long-standing dispute over Kashmir, a territory that both nations claim as their own, has been a significant source of hostility and has resulted in several conflicts and continuing tensions. The dynamics between India and Pakistan have been significantly shaped by nuclear deterrence, which has given their contacts a greater sense of urgency and prudence. Despite these obstacles, both countries have undertaken diplomatic attempts to build friendly ties by having conversation and pursuing peace procedures to resolve their disagreements. Track-II diplomacy has also contributed to the growth of communication and understanding by integrating non-governmental players and unofficial channels. The stability of Indo-Pakistan ties is closely related to the stability of South Asia since any escalation or conflict between the two countries has the potential to affect the whole region. In order to advance security and collaboration in the area, it is necessary for both India and Pakistan, as well as the global community, to keep looking into possibilities for a peaceful settlement, honest communication, and ongoing engagement.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Indo-Pakistan relations continue to be a complicated and delicate topic with important ramifications for both countries and the larger South Asian region. The background for building good relations has been made difficult by historical hostility, territorial disputes, and cross-border wars. In order to resolve their problems, it is crucial to acknowledge the efforts made by both India and Pakistan in diplomatic endeavors and peace procedures. In order to prevent any escalation, both parties must act responsibly and cautiously, which is made evident by the existence of nuclear deterrent. It is essential that all parties aggressively seek avenues of conversation, negotiation, and confidence-building measures since the stability of the region is intimately related to the condition of relations between India and Pakistan. The international community may help and promote efforts between the two nations to reach a peaceful conclusion. There is potential for better Indo-Pakistan ties, which may open the door for long-term peace, stability, and development in the region by prioritizing conversation and collaboration above hostility.

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CHAPTER 14

AN ELABORATION OF THE ASPECTS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

The multifaceted aspects of India's foreign policy, examining its key objectives, principles, and strategic considerations in the global arena. The paper analyzes India's pursuit of regional and global partnerships, its focus on economic diplomacy, and the impact of its historical, cultural, and geopolitical factors on shaping its foreign policy. Additionally, it delves into India's approach towards major powers, its engagement in international organizations, and its response to emerging challenges such as climate change, security concerns, and technological advancements. By comprehensively examining the various dimensions of India's foreign policy, this chapter provides valuable insights into the country's evolving role in the international community.

KEYWORDS:

Economic Diplomacy, Foreign Relations, Geopolitics, Global Partnerships, Historical Factors, International Organizations.

INTRODUCTION

The World Bank was established in 1944 with the goal of raising global standards of living and putting policies in place to combat illnesses, hunger, poverty, and illiteracy. Its duties included ensuring the start of development, giving developing nations financial and technical assistance, building infrastructure, protecting rights, putting laws in place to promote commerce, and combating corruption. commercial blocs are global accords that provide member nations access to commercial interactions and talks without trade barriers. You will learn in-depth information about these organizations' contributions to the Indian economy in this unit. The role of India in the UN, ASEAN, and EU, as well as India and global finance and commerce, will also be covered in this course. Also covered in this course is India's involvement with the nuclear order. The World Bank, also known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was established in July 1944 at the same time as the IMF. The World Bank is focused on supporting the sustainable economic development of its member nations. It serves as a middleman for the distribution of financial resources from more developed to underdeveloped nations [1].

Purposes of the World Bank

The World Bank was created with the following objectives:

- a) To help in the reconstruction and development of territories of members by facilitating the investment of capital for productive purposes, including:
 - o The restoration of economies destroyed or disrupted by war.
- b) The re-conservation of productive resources to peace-time needs.
- c) The encouragement of the development of productive facilities to peace-time needs.

- d) Encouragement of development of productive facilities and resources in less-developed countries.

To promote private foreign investment by means of:

- a) Guarantees or participations in loans and other investments made by private investors
- b) To supplement private investment when private capital is not available on reasonable terms

To promote the long-range balanced growth of international trade and the maintenance of equilibrium in balance of payments by encouraging long-term international investment thereby assisting in raising productivity, the standard of living and conditions of labour in their territories:

- a) To encourage loans made or guaranteed so that the more useful and urgent projects will be dealt with first.
- b) To conduct its operations so as to bring about a smooth transference from a war-time to peace-time economy.
- c) The World Bank's capital is too small to provide for the development needs of the entire world. It has, therefore, set up a number of subsidiary organizations for more finance [2].

Thus, the Bank was intended to serve as an essential adjunct to the IMF and in particular to ensure a high and stable level of international investment with a view to promoting the maintenance of a high level of international trade and thus of production and employment [3].

Membership and organization: Each and every IMF member is also a World Bank member. Every nation that joins the IMF also joins the World Bank by default.

Each World Bank member has a capital commitment that is comparable to their quota in the Fund. The subscriptions of the member also generally represent its voting power. 188 nations were Bank members as of June 2012. The World Bank is run similarly to the IMF, with the exception that the President of the Bank serves as its chief executive. The two organizations governors and executive directors usually have the same gender [4].

Resources: With an authorized capital of \$11 billion, split into 100,000 shares of \$100,000 each, the World Bank was founded in 1946. According to their economic standing and the amount of their IMF quotas, the member nations subscribed to it. The first division of a member's entire capital subscription into three halves was as follows:

- a) The 2 per cent of the subscription to be paid in gold or US dollars.
- b) The 18 per cent of the subscription to be paid in member's own currency.
- c) The remaining 80 per cent subject to call as and when required to meet the Bank's obligations.

The functions of the World Bank are as follows:

- a) It provides long- and medium-term loans: One of the World Bank's early goals was to help in the rehabilitation of war-torn countries. this task is still being performed today. After focusing its loans for the first two years on Europe's needs for rebuilding, the Bank moved its attention to emerging nations. There are two categories of loans: development and reconstruction.

- b) The Bank lends money to private businesses or to the governments of its members. In the second situation, the Bank requests a guarantee from the local government, central bank, and other like institutions in the area where the project is to be carried out. Loans are given based on a strong financial and economic research. the project must provide a rate of return that is acceptable.
- c) The Bank consults professionals in order to provide the borrowers with technical guidance.
- d) Economic and social research: The World Bank conducts research projects and smaller research studies in the area of economic and social research. Professional economists are very interested in the World Bank Staff Working Papers. The bank conducts an extensive examination of the economic and social conditions in developing nations once a year in order to evaluate the situation and make development-related choices. The main issues that developing nations today face are covered in the World Development Report.
- e) By backing loans issued by other organizations, the Bank encourages foreign investment. The role of the Bank is to enhance, not replace, the flow of private risk capital.
- f) The capital of the World Bank is insufficient to meet all of the requirements of global development. As a result, it has established a number of subsidiary companies for additional funding [5].

The Bank's loan policy has been criticized on several grounds:

1. First, it is said that poor nations pay a high interest rate on World Bank loans. The borrowing nations must pay fixed rate commitment costs on unpaid loan amounts in addition to the high rates of interest on loans. This objection is valid, especially in light of the knowledge that World Bank loans are supported by project assessments and guaranteed by the governments of the borrowing nations.
2. Second, as opposed to broad development objectives, the Bank mostly lends money for individual projects. Critics contend that loans need to be provided for general development as well, increasing the total amount of non-project loans.
3. Third, since the World Bank is a non-political, non-partisan organization, it is not permitted to favour certain nations over others. In reality, however, the bank has granted loans based on factors other than only economic ones. The world's greatest population area and untapped economic resources are found in the nations of Asia and Africa together. Their population is quite poor. The World Bank's assistance to them has been insufficient. Contrarily, although having smaller populations and geographical areas, the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean have benefited from significant loans [6].
4. Finally, it is claimed that the Bank has too much influence over how projects are carried out for which loans are provided. Typically, it leads to pointless meddling in the domestic economic affairs of the borrowing nations.

World Trade Organization

India is one of the original 23 signatories to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which was signed in October 1947. India is also one of the original members of the World Trade Organization. Through the WTO, India and other countries have resolved a number of trade

disputes. India has also made a significant contribution to the successful creation of key trade policies. India's WTO membership has allowed other nations to trade with it, which has increased output, employment, living standards, and the chance to utilize global resources to their fullest potential. The government should develop policies and budgetary allocations to enhance export in promising sectors of services in order to grow its share of global commerce [6].

Role of WTO

The World commerce Organization, the first and most powerful organization for regulating international commerce, was established on January 1, 1995. One of its 132 original members is India. The WTO is the overarching body in charge of monitoring the execution of all agreements that were reached immediately before it was established. It is also in charge of resolving conflicts among its members. Finally, under the direction of the WTO, a periodic review of trade policy would be started. Prior to the establishment of the WTO, the GATT's rules and regulations governed international commerce in goods. The complexity of global commerce, which had been continuously increasing since the Bretton Woods period, could not be accommodated by the GATT rules, either in terms of commodity coverage or the types of regulations used by the regional trade blocs. Furthermore, trade in services was not covered by the GATT framework.

The WTO's stated objective is to establish a global trading system based on rules that is just and equitable. The fact that the new international trade system will be open and inclusive is its most alluring feature. Every trade liberalization attempt should provide benefits for the whole global trading community in the shape of sizable and increasing markets and increased trade flows for all participating members. To make the process more transparent and accessible to worldwide public scrutiny, all quantitative limits would be replaced with tariffs. All tariff reductions and changes would be made via talks and are to be reported to the WTO. The developed nations would then gradually eliminate all forms of aid so that developing nations' economy may have more access to developed nations' markets owing to their inherent cost advantage [7].

The Most Favoured Nation Clause and the National Treatment Clause are the two most important tenets of the WTO accords. Under the former, member nations cannot be treated differently from one another. Any trade concessions granted to one member must also be granted to all other members. According to the latter, domestic and imported goods must be treated equally. In addition, no additional tax other than the one collected on domestic goods may be applied. Investors in foreign enterprises and the government must have confidence that no trading partner would unilaterally impose trade obstacles. Finally, the less developed nations should benefit more from the new trade system. They need more time to adapt, more flexibility, and certain special rights. The WTO's accords include three categories on a global scale: commodities, services, and intellectual property rights. First, the GATT reformulations are to be used to regulate trade in commodities of all kinds. Second, the General Agreement on Commerce in Services is intended to govern all forms of commerce in services. Third, the rules and circumstances for the international exchange of intellectual property would be outlined by trade-related features of intellectual property rights.

Evaluation

The new trading system of the WTO seems to give undue emphasis on private sector and competition and fails to recognize the strategic role which the state plays in promoting the right kind of development with emphasis on equity and social infrastructure. Over-emphasis on competition seems to have eroded the concept of public good and thereby provided a partial

view of development process. One of the objectives of trade negotiations under the GATT is providing a freer trading environment for the movement of goods and services. This objective is based on the assumption that free trade is an optimal modality for global welfare. However, free trade does not necessarily imply fair trade. Given the differences in the initial conditions, total free trade seems to aggravate the gap between the rich and the poor countries. The new trading system under the WTO fails to recognize this adverse impact of liberalization of trade on the norms of fairness [8].

The WTO and Its Functions

With the support of at least 85 founding members, including India, the new World Trade Organization, which superseded the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade, went into force on January 1st, 1995. Together with the World Bank and the IMF, the WTO is currently the third global economic pillar. Approximately 77 of the 125 nations that agreed to the Uruguay Round trade agreement in April 1994 at a meeting in Marrakech have formally informed the GATT that they want to join the WTO.

The new trade organization, WTO, has broader jurisdiction than GATT, whose regulations had been in place for the previous 50 years. It has the authority to resolve trade disputes between countries and to expand the concept of free trade to industries like services and agriculture. The WTO plans to reduce tariffs by more than one-third and is worried about additional market liberalization. The establishment of the new trade organization WTO is anticipated to have a significant long-term positive impact on global commerce. According to a GATT prediction, the amount of money exchanged yearly via international commerce might reach \$510 billion in 2005.

The WTO agreement would govern commodity trade similarly to the GATT, but it will also include cross-border services like insurance and tourism. Patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property are all protected under the new WTO rules. The WTO accords entirely include agriculture and textiles. A ministerial conference, the top WTO body, will convene at least once every two years. The WTO has been entrusted with the following functions:

- a) The WTO would facilitate proper implementation of multinational trade agreements.
- b) It will review trade policies undertaken by the member countries.
- c) It will act as a forum for the negotiation of disputes among the member countries over trade-related problems.
- d) The WTO will work in cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank.

India's Commitments to the WTO

- a) **Tariff Lines:** Approximately 67 percent of India's tariff lines are now bonded as a WTO member, compared to only 6 percent before the Uruguay Round. With a few notable exceptions, ceiling bindings of 40% ad valorem on finished products and 25% on intermediate items, machinery, and equipment have been implemented on non-agricultural commodities. Over the period from March 1995 to the year 2005, the stepwise decrease to these bound levels is being carried out. India has reserved the right to return to tariff levels in place in 1990 in the case that the integration process envisioned by the Agreement on Textiles does not fully materialize. In the case of textiles, the decrease would be completed over a period of ten years. India's binding rate under the Agreement of Agriculture varies from 100 to 300 percent [9].

- b) **Quantitative Restrictions:** In 1997, the WTO received notifications of quantitative import restrictions maintained on balance of payments grounds for 2714 tariff lines at the eight-digit level. The Committee on Balance of Payments limits has recommended India to gradually remove the quantitative limits due to improvements in its balance of payments. A deal between the USA and India called for India to gradually remove all quantitative limits by April 2001. India abolished quantitative limitations on the remaining 715 goods in the Exim Policy issued in March 2001 as well as on the 714 items in the Exim Policy released on March 31, 2000, in accordance with this agreement.
- c) **TRIPs:** The Government of India was required to make the necessary changes to the Patents Act, 1970 by April 1999 in accordance with the decisions of the two WTO Dispute Settlement Panels in response to complaints from the United States and the European Union alleging that India had broken its obligations under Articles 70.8 and 70.9. Parliament approved the Patents Act, 1999 in March 1999 to establish Exclusive Marketing Rights. It has been decided to implement a sui generis system for plant types since it is seen to be in the best interests of our country. With the exception of clauses pertaining to the protection of performers' rights, the Copyright Act, 1957, as revised in 1994, protects our interests and complies with TRIPs Agreement obligations. In December 1999, Parliament approved a Bill that would have extended this tenure to 50 years.
- d) **TRIMs:** According to the TRIMs agreement, developing nations have a five-year transition period ending on December 31, 1999, during which they may continue to implement measures in accordance with the Agreement as long as they are adequately informed. Two TRIMs, relating to local content criteria in the manufacturing of certain pharmaceutical products and dividend balancing rules in the case of investment in 22 categories of consumer goods, were announced by the Indian government.
- e) **GATS:** India has agreed to 33 activities under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. These activities will be entered by foreign service providers. The Government of India claims that factors related to the good of the country informed the selection of the activities.
- f) **Customs Valuation Rules:** To comply with the requirements of the WTO Agreement on implementations of Article VII of GATT 1994 and the Customs Valuation Agreement, India's law on customs valuation standards, 1998, has been modified.

The first two ministerial meetings were conducted in Singapore and Geneva, respectively, when the status of the agreement's implementation was reviewed and key aspects were addressed. Additionally, during these sessions, two new contracts the information technology agreement and the global e-commerce agreement were inked. At the time, Indian IT exports were beginning to soar. Thankfully, the agreements reached on these problems have benefited e-commerce rather than hurting India's interests [10].

DISCUSSION

The debate over many facets of Indian foreign policy covers a broad spectrum of factors that influence the nation's outlook on world events. India's pursuit of regional and international relationships is a crucial factor. The nation aggressively interacts with other major countries, as well as its immediate neighbors, in order to maintain regional stability, increase security, and create economic cooperation. With this strategy, India hopes to strengthen its position and protect its strategic interests. Additionally, economic diplomacy is very important to India's

foreign policy. Given the importance of economic development and progress, India wants to improve its trade and investment relations with other nations. India seeks to expand market access for its products and services, attract foreign direct investment, and improve its overall economic competitiveness by actively engaging in regional and global trade accords. India's historical, cultural, and geopolitical aspects have a significant impact on its foreign policy. Its diplomatic exchanges and engagements are shaped by its rich historical and cultural history, which often emphasize common ideals and historical ties. A further factor influencing India's attitude to regional security, counterterrorism operations, and maritime cooperation is the country's strategic position in South Asia and its closeness to important global hotspots like the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

India actively engages in international organizations and forums related to global governance. It aspires to take a positive part in establishing international standards, promoting multilateralism, and tackling shared problems including climate change, poverty eradication, and sustainable development. India's increasing participation in international forums demonstrates its desire to play a responsible role in the world and support the efforts of the whole international community. India's foreign policy must manage new difficulties as it changes. Threats to cybersecurity, the effects of disruptive technology, and the shifting dynamics of international power systems are some of these difficulties. India's foreign policy strategy must change to handle these issues while also defending its national interests and advancing a world order based on norms. India's foreign policy has several different facets that must all be taken into account. India aspires to become a major participant in the international community by putting an emphasis on regional and international alliances, emphasizing economic diplomacy, taking into consideration historical and geopolitical issues, and actively participating in international organizations. India will need to continue to develop its foreign policy goals while navigating new obstacles and adjusting to the changing global environment.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India's foreign policy is dynamic and complex, reflecting the nation's changing position on the world stage. India seeks to strengthen its position, encourage economic expansion, and guarantee regional stability via regional and international relationships. In order to improve its commercial and investment relations with other countries, India continues to rely heavily on economic diplomacy. India's diplomatic contacts are heavily shaped by historical, cultural, and geopolitical circumstances, with an emphasis on shared values and strategic concerns. India's commitment to global governance and tackling shared concerns is shown by its active participation in international organizations. India must, however, also adjust to new problems, such as cybersecurity, disruptive technology, and evolving power relations. India can successfully advance its national interests and support a global system based on norms by negotiating these complications. India's foreign policy will continue to change, and how it does so will be very important in determining how it is seen internationally and how it affects world events.

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CHAPTER 15

AN ELABORATION OF THE RELATION BETWEEN WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION NEGOTIATIONS AND INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

The intricate relationship between World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and India. As one of the prominent emerging economies, India plays a significant role in global trade discussions and policies. The research aims to analyze the multifaceted interactions between India and the WTO, focusing on the country's engagement in negotiations, its stance on key trade issues, and the implications of these dynamics on India's domestic economy and international trade relations. By examining India's historical involvement in WTO negotiations and its evolving priorities, this study sheds light on the complexities and challenges faced by the country in shaping the global trade agenda. Furthermore, it investigates the impact of WTO negotiations on India's trade policies, market access, and overall economic development. The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of India's role within the WTO framework and offer insights into the potential avenues for enhancing India's trade interests in the evolving global trade landscape.

KEYWORDS:

International Trade, Negotiations, Trade Agreements, Trade Policy, Trade Relations, World Trade Organization.

INTRODUCTION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has been engaged in trade discussions known as the Doha Round since 2001. The discussions touch on a number of topics, including trade-related intellectual property rights, laws, and trade facilitation, as well as agriculture, market access for non-agricultural goods, and agriculture. Nothing is agreed upon until everything is agreed upon, which includes the way the discussions are conducted, their conclusion, and their implementation. The heads of the two Negotiating Groups had a discussion on December 6th, 2008, on the key topics in the ongoing WTO talks regarding Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access. Due to disagreements between developed and developing countries about the amount of market access and the liberalization of tariffs, the WTO talks have stagnated. When developing nations like India agree to a tariff freeze, their imposed customs charges are drastically reduced since they are below the set ceiling levels. India has prohibited the export of pluses and placed quantitative limitations on outbound shipments of goods like rice and sugar in order to increase local stocks. Additionally, India is about to introduce a food security legislation that would provide legal right to subsidized food grains to roughly 64% of its people [1].

WTO: Principles of Trade Policy

The World Trade Organization is in charge of coming up with the concepts for trade policy, but it has no influence over how those concepts are implemented or defined. Simply put, the WTO establishes guidelines for trade policy but assumes no responsibility for the results.

Understanding the following five concepts is crucial for comprehending the previous iterations of GATT and the World Trade Organization:

- a) **Non-Discrimination:** The non-discrimination policy is made up of two essential parts: These are the national treatment policy and the Most Favored Nation regulations. These regulations have their roots in the fundamental WTO laws governing trade in products, services, and intellectual property. But the extent and character of these laws differ from region to region. A WTO member is required to impose the same restrictions on trade with other WTO members in accordance with the MFN regulations. It indicates that a WTO member must provide the best terms possible for trade in a certain product category to all other WTO members. According to this regulation, if you give someone a particular favour, you have to return the favour to all other WTO members. According to the national treatment policy, locally produced and imported commodities should be treated equally. This policy was put in place to address non-tariff trade restrictions [2].
- b) **Reciprocity:** This concept highlights the need for increased access to international markets as well as a need to manage the potential for free-riding that might result from the MFN norm. The proportion of benefit must be higher than the gain obtainable via unilateral liberalization if a nation wishes to negotiate, which is a related argument. Reciprocal concessions aim to guarantee that such advantages will occur [3].
- c) **Binding and Enforceable Commitments:** The tariff promises made by WTO members who are participating in a multilateral trade negotiation and on succession are included in a schedule or list of concessions. These schedules establish ceiling bindings. a country may choose to alter these bindings, but only after consulting with its trade partners. This is essential because the trade partners may be able to recover their losses via this dialogue. The offended country is allowed to use the WTO dispute resolution processes to resolve the issue if it cannot be resolved peacefully.
- d) **Transparency:** Members of the WTO are required to publish their trade policies in order to preserve the institutions that allow for the scrutiny of administrative decisions that influence trade, to respond to information requests from other members, and to notify the WTO of certain policy changes. Regular country-specific reports utilizing the Trade Policy Review Mechanism are added to and made easier by these internal procedures to ensure openness. Additionally, the World Trade Organization makes every effort to make its policies more predictable and stable, and in order to accomplish this goal, it opposes the use of quotas and other measures that are used to regulate the volume of imports.
- e) **Safety Valves:** The government has the authority to enforce trade practice bans under certain particular circumstances. In this respect, there are three different sorts of provisions. These include clauses enabling trade measures to be used to achieve non-economic goals, clauses assuring fair competition, and clauses authorizing trade intervention for financial gain. These MFN principles do, however, include a few caveats that allow for preferential treatment of developing nations, customs unions, and regional free trade zones [4].

WTO: A summary of India's stand on key negotiating issues

- a) **Agriculture**
 - i. Substantial and effective reductions in overall trade-distorting domestic support of the US and EU.

- ii. Self-designation of an appropriate number of special products.
 - iii. An operational and effective Special Safeguard Mechanism.
 - iv. Simplification and capping of developed country tariffs
- b) Non-Agricultural Market Access**
- i. Adequate and appropriate flexibilities for protecting economically vulnerable industries.
 - ii. Participation in sectorial initiatives only on a non-mandatory and good faith basis without prejudgment of the final outcome, with substantial special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries.
 - iii. Serious consideration of non-tariff barrier textual proposals with wide support such as the horizontal mechanism.

Services

- i. Need for qualitative improvement in the revised offers especially on Modes 1 and 4.
- ii. Appropriate disciplining of domestic regulations by developed countries.

Rules

- i. Tightening of disciplines on anti-dumping.
- ii. Effective special and differential treatment for developing countries on fisheries subsidies.

Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

- i. Establishing a clear linkage between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biodiversity by incorporating specific disclosure norms for patent applications [5].
- ii. Enhanced protection for geographical indications other than wines and spirits.

India's Multilateral Diplomacy: UN, Asean and EU

In this section, we will introduce you to the India's role in UN, ASEAN and EU.

i. The United Nations: Origin, Objectives, Membership and Principal Organs

The UN is said to be the human race's emblem of hope. This optimism is the hope that peace is possible, as former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold put it. 192 independent nations make up the United Nations. It was established in 1945 to take the place of the disastrous League of Nations. The Allies decided against reviving the League of Nations and instead chose to create a new global organization in order to achieve their goals of destroying tyranny and securing democracy for everyone during the Second World War. everyone countries at the time fighting against Hitler's Germany made their determination to cooperate with other free peoples to create a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security known in the London Declaration of June 12, 1941. In an address to the Congress in January 1941, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined four freedoms that were of paramount significance to all people [6]. Here are some of them:

- a. Freedom of speech and expression.
- b. Freedom to worship.
- c. Freedom from want.
- d. Freedom from fear.

The United States was not at war at the time. It was keeping an impartial eye. The London Declaration and the Four Freedoms were expressions of humanity's yearning to be free from war and want. The famous Atlantic Charter, which was released by Roosevelt and Churchill on August 14, 1941, called for the establishment of a peace that will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, of freedom from fear and want, and the development of a wider and permanent system of general security. On January 1, 1942, the 26 nations that were at the time Allies supported the values outlined in the London Declaration and the Atlantic Charter in what would become known as the United Nations Declaration. This document, which was signed in Washington, primarily addressed war rather than peace. The goal was to emphasise teamwork in the face of the Axis and assure one another that no one would seek peace on their own.

In the 'Moscow Declaration of Four Nations on General Security', which was adopted on October 30, 1943, the official decision to establish a new international organisation was made. These four Allies were the USSR, Britain, China, and the United States. For the maintenance of international peace and security, they declared that they recognise the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organisation, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership to all such states, large or small. Why was the new organisation founded, and why was the United Nations chosen as its name? Cordell Hull, the country's secretary of state at the time, only announced that a new organisation will be created. The League had, however, been shamed and defamed for its abject failure to keep the peace. the Soviet Union had been ousted from the League. and the United States had never joined. According to H.G. Nicholas, by 1942, fairly or unfairly, the League reeked of failure. Russian pride had been fatally injured by the League's condemnation and its subsequent expulsion at the time of the Russo Finnish war. and in the United States, it was generally thought that it would be much better to try to garner public support for a new organisation than to run the risk of reviving the stale and bitter controversy over American entry into the League [7].

The name United Nations was adopted to emphasise cooperation amongst the Allies in the face of a shared foe. The phrase was created by President Roosevelt and used in the January 1, 1942, Declaration. In August–September 1944, the Allies held a summit at Dumbarton Oaks after deciding to replace the League with the United Nations. Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union were the first three countries to attend the conference. Later, Britain, the United States, and China did so. To emphasise the USSR's neutrality in the Far East, this was done. At Dumbarton Oaks, the United Nations Charter was created, but key concerns, such the Security Council voting process and the Soviet demand for membership of all 16 Union Republics in addition to itself, could not be resolved. At the Yalta Summit between Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin in February 1945, these problems were settled. The Soviet leader was convinced to drop his proposal for 16 Union Republics to join separately. Nevertheless, it was decided that in addition to the USSR, Ukraine and Bylo-Russia would also become UN members.

The draught Charter was ultimately approved in a convention in San Francisco. Along with the Big Three, China, and France joined as Charter sponsors. After two months of discussion, the San Francisco Conference's 50 participating nations plus Poland, who had been asked to join

as an initial member, signed the Charter. 51 people made up the United Nations' founding membership in 1945. On April 25, 1945, Truman, the newly elected US President, officially began the Conference. On June 26, 1945, he bid the delegation goodbye. The US Congress readily passed the Charter with 89 votes in favour to 2 votes against, unlike the League Covenant. The UN would be founded after the Charter, as stated in Article 110. was approved by the majority of the other signatory nations as well as the five Big Powers. On October 24, 1945, the United Nations was officially created once this was accomplished [8].

Objectives of the United Nations

Sharing in the name of solidarity is what the UN does. According to Dag Hammarskjöld, it is not a question of choice but rather a need for humanity. The Preamble itself shows the hope and participation of humanity. We the peoples of the United Nations, committed to protect future generations from the scourge of war, which has twice in our lifetime caused unspeakable suffering to humanity, do thus form an international organization to be known as the United Nations, it states. As a result, unlike the League of Nations, the United Nations derives its strength from the peoples of the globe. Article 1 of the Charter outlines the goals of the United Nations. These goals are, in brief, as follows:

- i.** To uphold global peace and security and, in pursuit of this end, to implement effective collective security measures for the mitigation of risks to peace.
- ii.** To foster goodwill between countries.
- iii.** To establish global collaboration in addressing issues that are economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian.
- iv.** To serve as a hub for coordinating international efforts to achieve these shared goals.

As a result, the United Nations is essential for the preservation of world peace, the defense of human rights, and the socioeconomic advancement of its member nations. Seven guiding principles are outlined in Article 2 of the UN Charter to serve as a guide for the organization and its members as they work towards the aforementioned goals [9]. These are listed below:

- i.** Sovereign equality of all the Members of UN.
- ii.** All Members shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter.
- iii.** Peaceful settlement of international disputes so that international peace and security, and justice, are not threatened.
- iv.** All Members will refrain from threat, or use of force against the territorial integrity of other states.
- v.** All Members will give all possible assistance to the United Nations, and will not give any help to a country against whom the UN is taking action.
- vi.** The UN will try to ensure that even non-members act in accordance with the principles of the Charter.
- vii.** The United Nations shall not intervene in matters which are essentially within domestic jurisdiction of the states.
- viii.**

The goals for which the UN was created are summed up in these concepts. Sovereignty of countries must be respected, their integrity must be maintained, conflicts must be settled peacefully, the use of force must be avoided, and the UN must refrain from intervening in internal affairs of states. The aforementioned aims and principles serve as the foundation for all of the Charter's provisions. Non-interference in internal affairs of nations indicates a focus on Member sovereignty and, as a result, limits the United Nations.

Membership of the United Nations

All independent, pacifist governments in the globe are eligible to join the United Nations. The nations who participated in the San Francisco Conference and those that signed the United Nations Declaration on January 1, 1942, were the founding Members of the UN in accordance with Article 3 of the Charter. There were 51 of these founding members. All nations that value peace and accept the requirements outlined in the current Charter may later be recognized as UN members, as stated in Article 4. On the Security Council's suggestion, the General Assembly decides whether to accept new members. As a result, several nations that were denied membership in 1945 were eventually allowed to join the UN. Additionally, other colonial nations were periodically allowed when they gained independence. All of the former Union Republics that had become independent entities after the collapse of the Soviet Union were admitted. Pakistan became a member when India was partitioned in 1947, and Slovakia and the Czech Republic were also permitted to join after Czechoslovakia was split in half in 1992.

The total number of members increased to 192 after the end of the decolonization and dissolution of the former USSR. In 1992, Russia was given permission to take the former Soviet Union's position and take up residence in its permanent seat on the Security Council. In the past, cold war politics caused the membership of several nations, like West and East Germany and Japan, to be postponed for many years. Switzerland had chosen not to participate in the UN. It became the 190th member of the global organization. In the backdrop of the cold war, the issue of the People's Republic of China's representation had escalated into a contentious issue. Republic of China was a founding member of the UN at the time the Charter was enacted, and as a Big Power, it had a permanent seat on the Security Council. The People's Republic of China wanted to replace the Chiang administration's representative in the UN after the Chiang Kai-shek regime was overthrown on the Chinese mainland. The Cold War was sparked by the issue since the USSR backed the People's Republic of China's demand for representation but the USSR refused to recognize Communist China. The USSR temporarily boycotted UN organizations.

North Korea was labelled an aggressor during this boycott by the Security Council. After more than 20 years after the founding of the People's Republic, the United States finally consented to waive its right to veto any changes to China's representation. The People's Republic of China was given permanent membership in the Security Council in 1971 when the Republic of China was expelled from the UN. India has continuously backed the People's Republic of China in its efforts to gain membership in the UN. Additionally, India supported the UN's universality and typically supported the admission of new members [10].

Principal Organs and Specialized Agencies

A brief mention of principal organs of the UN and its specialized agencies will be dealt with here. The six principal organs created by the UN Charter are as follows:

- a. The General Assembly.

- b. Security Council.
- c. Economic and Social Council.
- d. Trusteeship Council.
- e. International Court of Justice.
- f. The Secretariat.

As a plenary body, the General Assembly is made up of every United Nations member. The UN General Assembly meets at least once a year to consider any issue falling within the purview of the UN Charter and to provide advice to members, the security council, or the Secretary-General. It also performs additional electoral duties and duties pertaining to world peace and cooperation, as well as electing non-permanent members of the Security Council. There are 10 non-permanent members and 5 permanent members of the Security Council. The fundamental duty of maintaining world peace and security falls on the Security Council. It carries out crucial duties in the peaceful resolution of international conflicts, the inception of collective security measures, and the coordination of UN peacekeeping operations.

The 54 members of the Economic and Social Council were chosen by the general assembly. It is in charge of fostering global socioeconomic cooperation. Several specialized agencies' operations are coordinated by the ECOSOC. The Trusteeship Council was in charge of monitoring the administration of trust lands. After Japan and Italy were defeated in the Second World War, these areas were either previous mandates or new trust territories that had been separated from them. The trusteeship council no longer meets since the decolonization process is complete.

The UN's court system is called the International Court of Justice. There are 15 judges who were chosen from the same number of nations. As judges of the ICJ, these distinguished lawyers look for reasonable and equitable resolutions to legal issues submitted to the Court. International law is interpreted by it. Additionally, it has advisory authority and provides the UN security council and general assembly with legal counsel. The UN Secretariat is its permanent division. It consists of a Secretary-General and any other personnel the organization may want to employ. The Secretary General is the head of the international civil service and is often chosen from a minor Power. In both the security council and the general assembly, he serves as the Secretary-General. He often brings conflicts to the security council's attention and carries out a variety of other political tasks entrusted to him by the two major institutions.

The UN has several specialized agencies. These include as follows:

- i. The International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Metrological Organization, the Universal Postal Union, and the International Telecommunication Union are specialized organizations that deal with technological issues.
- ii. The International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organizations are among the organizations involved in social and humanitarian work.
- iii. Organizations that work to solve global financial issues. These organizations include the International Development Authority, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Monetary Fund.

India works with the majority of these organizations and is helped and supported by several of them. UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, and the UN Development Program are three of these well-known organizations.

DISCUSSION

In the framework of the dynamics of international commerce, the link between world commerce organization discussions and India is a crucial subject. India has a key place in talks and policies relating to international trade as one of the largest rising economies. This connection is discussed from a variety of angles, such as India's participation in WTO talks, its position on important trade issues, and the effects of these dynamics on India's internal economy and international trade ties. India's role in the WTO discussions has been distinguished by its vigorous support of and lobbying on behalf of developing nations. By expressing concerns about agriculture, services, intellectual property rights, and market access, the nation has had a significant influence in determining the global trade agenda. India's participation in these discussions demonstrates its dedication to upholding its national interests while also attending to the demands of its economy's growth. Furthermore, India's trade policy and market access have been significantly impacted by its relationship with the WTO. The result of WTO talks often shapes India's trade policy choices and changes through affecting the regulatory environment in which it works. Maintaining positive trade ties with other WTO members depends on India's adherence to WTO agreements and attempts to harmonize local trade legislation with global norms. The WTO talks will have a significant impact on how India develops economically. The results of these discussions may have an impact on India's ability to export, the amount of foreign direct investment it receives, and its overall economic development.

Successful talks, for instance, might result in advantageous trade agreements and conditions for market access that can provide India's companies enormous development prospects, especially in areas like information technology, pharmaceuticals, and textiles. However, there are difficulties in the partnership between India and the WTO. In order to balance its national goals with the different interests and aspirations of other member nations, India must overcome a number of difficulties. It might be challenging to strike a balance between advancing international commerce and safeguarding indigenous businesses. In the WTO discussions, India has expressed concerns over access to rich nation markets, special and differentiated treatment for poor countries, and agricultural subsidies. India's involvement in WTO discussions involves a complicated combination of interests, goals, and difficulties. Important aspects to take into account include India's active engagement in these discussions, its position on trade problems, and the effects of these dynamics on its domestic economy and international trade ties. Understanding this link gives chances for advancing India's economic interests while meeting its developmental objectives and offers useful insights into the changing global trade scene.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, the world commercial organization discussions and India have an intricate and dynamic interaction that affects both the internal economy and foreign commercial ties of India. India's strong participation in WTO discussions demonstrates its dedication to defending its national interests while championing the issues of developing nations. The results of these discussions have a big impact on India's economic growth, market access, and trade policy. The complexity and difficulties India had in balancing its aims with the various interests of other members highlight the careful balancing act needed in talks on international trade. Understanding the connection between India and the WTO gives important insights into the

changing international trade environment as well as opportunities to advance India's trade interests and advance its economic development. India must continue to actively participate in WTO discussions going ahead, speak out for its interests, and look into potential for trade agreements that would be mutually beneficial and would meet the requirements of both developing and developed nations. India can position itself as a vital actor in determining the global trade agenda and achieving its goals for sustainable economic growth by successfully negotiating this relationship.

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CHAPTER 16

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIA'S ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

The role of India within the United Nations (UN) and its impact on global affairs. As one of the largest and most populous nations in the world, India holds significant influence and plays a crucial role in shaping UN policies, initiatives, and decision-making processes. The chapter explores India's historical contributions to the UN, highlighting its commitment to peacekeeping operations, its active participation in multilateral forums, and its efforts to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Additionally, the chapter delves into India's aspirations for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and the challenges it faces in achieving this goal. By analyzing India's engagement with the UN, this paper sheds light on the country's evolving role as a major global player and its potential to shape the future of international diplomacy and cooperation.

KEYWORDS:

International Diplomacy, Multilateral Forums, Permanent Seat, United Nations, Global Affairs.

INTRODUCTION

India has actively collaborated with a number of the UN's primary departments and specialized entities. As a non-permanent member of the security council, India has already held many 2-year mandates. The seventh session of the UN general assembly will be presided over by Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit of India. Everyone praised her for the majesty and elegance with which she led the general assembly's deliberations. India maintains an almost constant affiliation with the Economic and Social Council and has provided aid in several social-economic endeavors. Distinguished Indian jurists have held positions as judges on the International Court of Justice, including B.N. Rau and Nagendra Singh. The Court was also presided over by Dr. Nagendra Singh. Numerous professional organizations have assisted India in overcoming shortages and finding solutions to issues with food, child care, malnutrition, health, and other issues [1].

Charles H. Heinsath and Suljit Mansingh said the following on India's dedication to the UN goals: After independence, the Charter became Nehru's most reliable standard for evaluating international conduct and a compendium of ideals to which his government could subscribe. He believed that the UN's reconstruction efforts could be the only thing that might give the world hope for a new order that would minimize war and advance international justice. The guiding concept of India's strategy towards the UN and its attempts to address numerous world issues via this organization was Nehru's trust in the organization and its efforts to rebuild. Below is a quick explanation of India's involvement in UN activities. One of the first concerns that India became concerned about was the participation of numerous newly independent nations. India backed those sovereign nations whose admittance was being resisted wholeheartedly.

In the Cold War setting, one or both Super Powers were preventing their membership. Japan and a handful of socialist nations were among them. With the help of a group of developing

nations headed by India, 16 countries were admitted in 1956. India argued vehemently for the inclusion of Communist China in the UN. From the end of 1949 until October 1971, when the US eventually permitted the departure of KMT China and its replacement by the People's Republic of China, the issue of Chinese representation remained unsolved. Even after China invaded India in 1962, India continued to favor Chinese entry. India contended that China, a sizable sovereign nation, could not rationally be excluded from the international organization [2]. India argued vehemently for hastening the decolonization of Asia and Africa. India assisted in swaying public opinion in favor of independence and the rapid decolonization of Afro-Asia in situations like Indonesia, when colonial Powers attempted to prevent their freedom. India publicly opposed keeping the colonial structure in place. In order for the world to be at peace and for Asia and Europe to have a friendly relationship, Prime Minister Nehru had maintained that colonialism had to stop.

He thought that colonialism was no longer relevant in the modern world. India opted to start a historic process that was already well underway because of the country's independence under Nehru's leadership. The Netherlands' government was pressured to cede sovereignty of Indonesia in the first significant effort India launched at the UN. India and Australia brought the combat between Dutch and Indonesian nationalist troops in July 1947 to the Security Council's notice in accordance with Articles 34 and 39 of the Charter. Even though the Dutch government tried to exploit the domestic jurisdiction clause, claiming that Indonesia was a domestic problem, the security council took up the case, called for a halt to hostilities, and urged the parties to resolve their disagreement amicably. The Dutch contention that the UN lacked the authority to handle the matter was therefore rejected by the Security Council. Indonesia's independence became a reality by the end of 1949 thanks in large part to the efforts of the Conference on Indonesia, which Prime Minister Nehru called in New Delhi in January 1949 [3].

India, along with other nations that shared its views, had a major impact in the liberation of the former French colonies of Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. India backed Cyprus's fight for independence. A resolution urging member nations to recognize the sovereign right of the peoples of non-self-governing territories was passed by the general assembly with a resounding majority as a consequence of India's advocacy for national self-determination there. All peoples have an innate right to total freedom, the exercise of their sovereignty, and the integrity of their national territory, according to the resolution against colonialism. Most colonies had gained independence by the 1960s, and decolonization was almost complete in the remaining territories. India played a key role in uniting the non-aligned movement, which was founded on India's policy of non-alignment and was started as a movement by Nehru along with Egyptian President Nasser and Yugoslavia's Tito. As more and more former colonies became independent states. When expressing the political and economic ambitions of its member nations at its many conferences, the Non-Aligned Movement, according to Professor Satish Kumar, took on the role of an organized pressure group in the United Nations.

The creation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was one of its great accomplishments. Later, NAM spearheaded the adoption of a resolution mandating the establishment of a New International Economic Order by the UN general assembly [3]. A fascinating situation that arose in the UN's early years was a dispute between the US and other countries with interests in the Pacific, including Britain, Australia, and Canada. Several Pacific islands that were given to Japan as mandated territory during the First World War are now in controversy since the mandatory has been defeated and the US has taken control of them. While Australia and Britain backed the idea that all Pacific War winning powers should be consulted before making any trusteeship decisions about these islands, America sought to take these

islands and the US Navy was insistent on their unilateral annexation. South of the equator, Australia was eager to purchase islands. India wasn't a Security Council member, but the UK and Australia insisted that they be included, along with New Zealand. US grudgingly agreed. Thus, India entered the scene in a case involving mandates trusteeship. In the perspective of Canada and New Zealand, US intentions were contrary to democracy and justice. They said that the US's argument did not follow international law. India, however, differed with the other Commonwealth participants. Law can be very pedantic and that this very pedantry can sometimes bring law into contempt, said Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar in jest. The US insisted strongly and finally got its way [4].

In 1949, India severed diplomatic ties with South Africa. In addition to being controlled by the white minority and denying the rightful right of the majority of colored people to rule, the government of South Africa also kept control over Namibia, which had been declared a mandated territory in 1919. India actively supported Namibia's case for independence and was a co-sponsor of UN resolutions urging South Africa to give Namibia its freedom. When Namibian independence fighters ultimately achieved sovereignty in 1990, they acknowledged India's assistance in their campaign. India is a steadfast supporter of the UN's initiatives to safeguard human rights. India has contributed to the implementation of judgements and resolutions relating to human rights ever since the United Nations general assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948. India has given the two human rights treaties its wholehearted support. The majority of human rights were included in the Indian Constitution, which was adopted in 1949, either as basic rights or as guiding principles of governmental action.

India has spoken out against human rights violations anywhere that they occur. In one such instance, India took the lead in calling for an end to all breaches of human rights in South Africa. Resolutions denouncing South Africa's apartheid were either sponsored by India or at the very least had its backing. It was ruled that apartheid constituted a crime against humanity. Since 1974, the South African government has not participated in the General Assembly. A unanimous Security Council resolution in 1976 mandated a weapons embargo against South Africa. Leading by the UN, a number of nations had imposed severe economic penalties on South Africa, and many of them had severed their diplomatic ties with the racist government. Dr. Nelson Mandela, who became the first non-white president of South Africa in May 1994 after winning an all-party election, greatly valued India's position in the world. As a result, both within and outside the UN, India was at the forefront of the anti-apartheid struggle. India has established its own National Human Rights Commission, whose chairman was once the country's Chief Justice. It is expected of this Commission to prevent any infringement of human rights in India. Additionally, it makes recommendations on how to stop abuses and defend human rights in India [5].

In the UN's efforts to promote disarmament and weapons control, India has constantly contributed positively and actively. India is dedicated to achieving complete nuclear disarmament. India advocated for disarmament and armaments control before the Conference on Disarmament, special sessions of the UN general assembly, and the Eighteen Nations Disarmament Committee. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was delayed in 1996 because India, while having signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty, refused all efforts to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty. India has always contributed significantly to UN peacekeeping efforts. Despite not being explicitly stated in the Charter, the idea of peacekeeping has developed into a method of managing conflicts that is accepted on a global scale. Rather than fighting wars, UN-directed troops have been deployed to manage and settle disputes between nations or communities inside states. The UN organized around 35 peacekeeping missions in its first 50

years of operation. These included military observation missions and, in certain circumstances, peacekeeping troops. India's acceptance of the Chairmanship of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission for Korea was one of the first missions provided by the UN and accepted by India. In 1953, its military forces were given the responsibility of caring for the prisoners of war. The UN Security Council had earlier requested UN members to thwart North Korean aggression against South Korea in its first exercise of collective security, and India had offered a show of support by deploying its army medical troops. India oversaw the challenging process of returning Korean War captives as the NNRC's chairman. In accordance with the Geneva Agreement of July 1954, India also served as the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Indo-China's Chairman [6].

The Indian Independent Brigade's 1960–1963 peacekeeping missions in the Congo were another significant task. The Congolese mission required the employment of Indian soldiers, much as in the case of Korea. On June 30, 1960, the Republic of Congo gained its independence from Belgian domination. Soon after, chaos erupted, prompting the Belgian military to be dispatched to protect and evacuate Europeans. The Security Council gave the Secretary-General permission to help the Congo militarily at their request. UN soldiers made up of numerous Asian and African nations started to arrive in the Congo in less than 48 hours. The UN forces once numbered 20,000 soldiers as the situation got more complicated after the murder of former prime minister Lumumba in the Katanga region and Katanga's attempted independence. The UN soldiers started to be eased out in February 1963, once Katanga was reintegrated. The Indian peacekeepers' contribution was much appreciated.

Another instance of India's assistance to the UN was peacekeeping in West Asia after Anglo-French-Israeli assault on Egypt over the Suez Canal nationalization problem. A United Nations Emergency Force was established immediately after the cease-fire on US-Soviet proposal to oversee the adherence of the cease-fire. The General Assembly passed a resolution creating the UNEF. Israel, the Soviet Union, and Egypt all chose to abstain on the grounds that only the Security Council could create such a force. Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, and Yugoslavia all had delegations at the UNEF. Like India, each of them was seen as being impartial in the Suez-related conflict. The UNEF oversaw the compliance of the cease-fire, the withdrawal of the Gaza Strip and Sinai region from Israel, and the patrolling of the 273 km long border between Egypt and Israel [7].

The conflict-torn former Yugoslavia posed a significant threat to the UN and its concept of global peace. Former Yugoslavia's dissolution shortly after the conclusion of the Cold War and the collapse of the USSR in 1991 led to unprecedented interethnic hostilities, mostly between Serbs and Bosnian Muslims. During the more than three years of fighting, the Serbs spoke of ethnic cleansing and murdered a significant number of Bosnians, left them homeless, orphaned, or both. In February 1992, the United Nations Protection Force for Yugoslavia was established. The mission of keeping the peace in the former Yugoslavia was challenging. A general of the Indian Army led the force [8]. India attempted to significantly advance the cause of Balkan peace, as usual. Indians who have served as members or directors of UN bodies or specialized organizations include the following:

- i. Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, President of the eighth session of the UN General Assembly.
- ii. B.N. Rau and Nagendra Singh, Eminent Indian jurists, served as judges of the International Court of Justice.
- iii. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council.

- iv. Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative of the UN Security Council.
- v. Aishwarya Rai, Goodwill Ambassador UNAIDS.
- vi. Shashi Tharoor, Under Secretary General, Communications and Public Information.

Seventy-Two Years of the United Nations in India

As was previously noted, India was a founding member of the UN. Since gaining its independence 72 years ago, India has remained in constant contact with the international organization. India has supported UN peacekeeping operations and hosted a number of UN organizations. As many as 18 organizations have country offices in New Delhi, and they have been collaborating closely with the Indian government and a few non-governmental organizations. India's commitment to peace is evident in its repeated appeals for disarmament and a total prohibition on nuclear and thermonuclear testing, despite the irony that it has not ratified the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty due to its perceived discriminatory character. India declined to support the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which was approved by the UN General Assembly in 1996, on the same concerns. India, which is also developing, has continuously provided significant support for UN initiatives to aid in the development of other developing nations. India is now the second-largest contributor to the UNDP, which is the main financing body for international development. The organization for Economic Cooperation and Development gives the most money to UNDP.

A few of the key areas of cooperation between India and the UN System will be briefly discussed. Gender inequality has been and continues to be a serious issue on a worldwide scale. Women make up around half of the world's population, do roughly two-thirds of its labour, earn just one-tenth of its income, and hold less than one-hundredth of the world's assets, according to the Beijing Declaration of the Fourth World Conference on Women, published in 1995. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring full implementation of women's and girls' human rights as an intrinsic, integral, and indivisible aspect of all human rights and basic freedoms, the Conference's declaration said. Numerous UN agencies have supported initiatives to raise the standard of living for women in India and more than a hundred other nations throughout the years. The UN organization UNIFEM has made the most important contributions to gender equality and integrating women into development. It has collaborated with the UNDP and a number of non-governmental organizations in India. For instance, SEWA has been addressing the issue of house workers in India. For the unorganized women employees, social security programs have also been established. ILO has been assisting both of these endeavors [9].

The Panchayati Raj System is being used in India to empower women, which is a crucial problem. With assistance from UNDP and UNICEF, the Indian government has launched a huge nationwide training programme to educate over 8,00,000 female Panchayat members with the skills necessary to operate local government and become effective social change agents. Women now make up a significant portion of the workforce, despite formerly being seen as invisible in the economy. The 1991 census more correctly represented the economic contribution of women. In India, organizations including UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF are working on population-related programmes, female contraception, and maternal health. The biggest nation programme run by UNDP, with an annual budget of roughly 40 million dollars, is in India. Its aid supports initiatives in fields including agricultural development, energy and environmental protection, transportation, communication, and social infrastructure, as well as technology transfer for greater industrial productivity. Projects supported by the Food and Agriculture organization in the agricultural sector include those that support agricultural

education, cutting-edge research using contemporary biotechnologies, hybrid rice production, plant quarantine facilities, integrated pest management, long-term support for desert locust control, and technical assistance to National Dairy Development and for increasing milk production. FAO supports forestry research and instruction in the field.

Additionally, it helps state forest departments improve their human resources and achieve forest management and conservation goals. In 1995, FAO assisted in the execution of 48 projects, 27 of which were UNDP-funded. It arranges for the placement of fellows from other nations for training at Indian universities as well as the recruitment of Indian professionals for FAO postings in other nations. India has benefited greatly from FAO's assistance in increasing the nation's agricultural output. In contrast to 1950, when just 50 million tonnes of food grains were produced, by 1994–1995 the nation had reached a record output of 189 million tonnes. Presently, India is the world's second-largest producer of wheat, rice, and ground nuts. Due to the FAO, there has also been a notable improvement in the production of cotton, sugar cane, poultry, milk, fish, vegetables, and fruits. The use of new technology in the agricultural sector has made this feasible.

India's production of food grains, despite an amazing expansion, cannot support its population of about 1 billion people. Nearly 300 million individuals in India are reportedly still unable to purchase enough food to meet their minimal calorie needs. As a result, India's agricultural growth must address three fundamental issues: satisfying the country's food needs, halting the destruction of its natural resources, and reducing rural poverty. The UN's World Food Program has contributed funding to the food for work program, which benefits the lowest-paid employees on complicated government projects. Rural Indians who are economically underprivileged have been given the opportunity to better their personal living situations while contributing to the nation's general development thanks to the World Food Program [10].

The World Health organization is a different organization with a significant mission. Within the United Nations family, it oversees and organizes activity in the field of international health. There are six regional offices within the WHO. Its New Delhi-based South-East Asia Regional Office works to advance healthcare in ten nations, including India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. As part of a worldwide effort, smallpox has been eliminated in this area. Like cholera, plague, and malaria, these sweeping epidemics are no longer present. India has launched a significant effort to manage and combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. India continues to be a highly active, significant, and unique partner of WHO. Numerous Indian experts are now participating in the WHO's advisory panels, boards, and global committees. Numerous foreign fellows are still being trained in Indian medical institutions.

The United Nations' division for providing food assistance has been referred to as the World Food Program. WFP has been assisting the Indian government in addressing the issues of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and illiteracy by assisting the underprivileged, tribal people, women, and children. The majority of WFP project recipients reside in outlying rural regions. India has already been promised aid worth around \$1 billion US by 1995. The WFP focuses its aid to India on three main areas. They are: integrated child development, rural development via irrigation, settlement, and inland fisheries, and tribal development through forestry. In 1963, the WFP set out on its goal to end hunger. For mothers who are primarily focused on raising children, food help is especially important.

The ECOSOC is responsible for directing the 1969-founded United Nations Fund for Population Activities. It is the most often used foreign funding source for population assistance. It aids several countries in developing and putting their population programs into action. Since

1974, UNFPA has assisted India with population-related endeavors. The UNFPA contributed close to 90 million dollars in aid to an Indian program it ran between 1991 and 1995. The program was in charge of enhancing the capacity and quality of health and family welfare services in states with high rates of birth, death, and infant mortality. increasing self-reliance in contraceptive production. strengthening and intensifying information and awareness in support of population programs. consolidating successes in population education. and enhancing women's status by improving their literacy and promoting employment and income. Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, is UNFPA's primary focus in India. Its program places a strong focus on women's empowerment and gender equality.

Child care is a topic that is closely tied to population activities. The distinctive duty of the United Nations Children Fund is to advocate for children on the basis of need and without prejudice. In 1965, it received the Nobel Peace Prize. All children have rights, and it is the legal responsibility of the state and society to guarantee that these rights are properly upheld. This is the foundation upon which UNICEF bases its work. The UN General Assembly's 1989 adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a moral and legal basis for UNICEF's work on behalf of children. Most of the United Nations' members have ratified the Convention. In 1992, India accepted the agreement, and in 1993, Ravi Shastri, a former cricket captain, was named UNICEF's National Ambassador for Children. The foundation of UNICEF's work in India is currently the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Currently, the UNICEF supports and finances programs in India for kids in the areas of basic health care, water supply and sanitation, primary education, nutrition, and child development. In the instance of the carpet business, which is very harmful to the health of child workers, UNICEF is pushing for a ban on child employment.

A key specialized UN agency is the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural organization. It focuses mostly on education. In terms of science and technology, UNESCO aims to meet the demands put forward by its Member States. It acknowledges the value of communication in the growth process. Additionally, it makes sure that traditional music from all across the globe is recorded and that certain classic works of international literature are translated. 11 South and Central Asian nations, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Myanmar, are covered by the UNESCO office in New Delhi. Learning without obstacles is a significant step towards lowering educational obstacles and fostering an atmosphere that is open and adaptable for learning. The UNESCO office in New Delhi has given particular consideration to open enrollment, distant learning, and women's education. To save Indian culture, it offers funding and help for the preservation of both physical and intangible heritage.

Because conflicts start in people's brains, the UNESCO Constitution states that the defenses of peace must be built in people's minds. The UNESCO focuses on good education for the whole development of children's and adults' personalities with this goal in mind. By the end of the 20th century, more than 20 million kids between the ages of 6 and 14 must be served in order for India to attain Education for All. In order to accomplish this goal, the World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, and other UN organizations support India's efforts to meet its literacy and education goals. Among the locations on the UNESCO World Heritage List are Delhi's Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb. In order to promote the interrelationships between culture, environment, and development, another innovative initiative that deals with the interaction between development and culture seeks to support the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in illustrating how fragments of the cultural past can be recreated. UNESCO is dedicated to assisting India and other developing nations in their efforts to guarantee that everyone, especially girls, has access to education. An Ibn Badis, an Algerian reformer, once

stated, Train a boy, and you will train one person.

You can educate the whole country by starting with one girl. With this as its goal, the UN system in India has been striving to promote gender equality and education for all, particularly in the fields of employment and education. There are now roughly 180 members of the International Monetary Fund, which was founded in 1944 as part of the Bretton Woods system. It aims to maintain stable currency rates and orderly exchange agreements among member nations. Additionally, it recently expanded its reach and is working to create a vibrant global economy. The IMF offers financial support to nations having trouble with their balance of payments. India joined the IMF in 1945 and has benefited from it ever since. India's 1991 stabilization and structural reform program, which aimed to liberalize the economy, was backed by the IMF. India made an effort to participate actively in global economic transformation by opening up, admitting foreign investment, and encouraging the free operation of market economic forces. India agreed to comply with the requirements of Article VIII of the Fund's Article of Agreement in 1994, which places limitations on the ability to conduct discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices without the International Monetary Fund's consent. Some people inside the nation have often criticized this commitment.

Another UN body is the International Civil Aviation organization. Its objectives are to advance the theories and methods of global air navigation and to promote the growth of global air travel. India is a member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which defines standards and aids in aviation security, streamlines immigration, customs, and public health procedures, and draughts air law accords. As a result, the Government of India and these and other UN agencies are working together. It is a two-way partnership. As a matter of policy, India has complete faith in the United Nations and its goals of promoting global peace and security, peaceful dispute resolution, all-around social and economic development, and the prevention of important initiatives like population growth, universal access to health care and education, the development of the food and agricultural industries along scientific lines, and the welfare of women and children. India has always provided support for the UN and its agencies' various initiatives. In exchange, several organizations and funding supplied by organizations like the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, IMF, and the World Bank have substantially benefitted India.

India has urged a zero-tolerance policy to terrorism in all of its manifestations in recent decades, in addition to asking for changes of the UNSC and international financial organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In order to provide a comprehensive legal framework to combat terrorism, India piloted a draught of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in 1996. India is still working to get it adopted quickly. A large number of CCIT's features have already been adopted. India also contributes significantly to UN funds, such as the UN Democracy Fund, which was established in 2005 by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, US President George W. Bush, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. India now ranks second in terms of contributions to the Fund to promote democratic principles and procedures.

DISCUSSION

India's participation in the UN has a variety of facets and has a big impact on world events. One of the biggest and most populous countries in the world, India has taken the lead in influencing UN activities, policies, and decision-making. India's significant involvement in peacekeeping missions is a noteworthy facet of its relationship with the UN. India has routinely sent soldiers and funding to UN peacekeeping operations throughout the globe as part of its

long-standing commitment to upholding global peace and security. Due to its dedication to maintaining the UN Charter, India has established a reputation as one of the major donors to UN peacekeeping missions. India has actively engaged in other multilateral forums within the UN in addition to peacekeeping. It has fought for international collaboration and the advancement of multilateralism. India's participation in these forums enables it to have an impact on conversations around a variety of topics, such as climate change, human rights, and international health. India seeks to make sure that its viewpoints and interests are taken into account when the world's policies and agendas are being developed by using its diplomatic influence and strategic alliances. India's contribution to the UN also includes its work to advance sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

India has shown a significant commitment to solving problems of poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability while facing a variety of socioeconomic obstacles. India has synchronized its national development aspirations with the global agenda via programs like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing equitable growth, access to education and healthcare, and sustainable practices. India's experiences and achievements in these areas provide important new perspectives to the larger UN conversation on sustainable development and the elimination of poverty. India's desire for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is a significant component of its involvement with the organization. India wants increasing participation and influence in international decision-making processes as a growing global power. To do this, you must negotiate intricate geopolitical processes and win the backing of other member nations. India's bid for a permanent seat faces obstacles, such as opposition from current permanent members and the need to forge agreement among UN member states. India is however dedicated to playing a transformational role within the UN as seen by its repeated attempts to reform the organization and pursue a more inclusive and representative global governance system.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India plays an undoubtedly major and powerful position in the UN. As a significant actor on the international stage, India actively participates in peacekeeping missions, advocates for sustainable development, and fights to reduce poverty. India may express its opinions and interests on a range of international problems via its participation in multilateral fora, adding to the conversation about global cooperation and diplomacy. India's goal to play a transformational role within the organization and advance a more inclusive and representative global governance system is exemplified by its ambitions for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. India's influence inside the UN will surely grow as a result of its development as a rising power, having a long-lasting effect on future international cooperation and diplomacy.

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CHAPTER 17

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN INDIA, ASEAN AND EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT:

This chapter explores the multifaceted interaction between India, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the European Union (EU). It delves into the political, economic, and strategic dimensions of their engagement, highlighting the evolving dynamics and shared interests among these three significant actors on the global stage. Through an analysis of bilateral and multilateral frameworks, trade partnerships, and diplomatic exchanges, this chapter elucidates the factors that shape and influence the cooperation and collaboration between India, ASEAN, and the EU. By examining the complexities of this trilateral relationship, this chapter offers valuable insights into the evolving regional and international dynamics and the potential implications for the global order.

KEYWORDS:

Bilateral Cooperation, Economic Partnerships, Geopolitical Interactions, Multilateral Frameworks, Regional Integration, Strategic Cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

During the Cold War, there was virtually little engagement between India and the Association of South East Asian Nations. India was presented with a full membership even before the organization was established in the 1960s. India, however, resisted accepting it. India began putting more emphasis on this area in 1992 with the creation of the Look East Policy. In recent years, there have been several advancements. The ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism has been ratified by India. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation now includes India [1]. There are now centers for entrepreneurship development in the ASEAN nations of Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. India also participates in the following two agreements:

- a) Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation was concluded in Bali in 2003.
- b) Agreement on 'India-ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity' was signed at the 3rd ASEAN-India Summit in November 2004.
- c) India proposed the following at the 4th ASEAN-India Summit.
- d) To set up centers for English Language Training in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- e) To set up a tele-medicine and tele-education network for Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.
- f) To organize special training courses for diplomats from ASEAN countries. To organize an India ASEAN Technology Summit To organize education fairs and road shows in ASEAN countries.

- g) To conduct an India ASEAN IT Ministerial and Industry Forum.

In the ASEAN region, natural resources and excellent technological skills are found in abundance. These are the two factors that provide the basis for the integration in trade and investment between India and ASEAN [2].

Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation

The ASEAN-India Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation was signed in 2003 by India and the Association of South East Asian Nations. According to this agreement, a free trade area (FTA) in products, services, and investment would be formed between ASEAN and India. The following goals of this agreement are listed in Article 1 and are agreed upon:

- a) Strengthen and enhance economic, trade and investment co-operation between the Parties.
- b) Progressively liberalize and promote trade in goods and services as well as create a transparent, liberal and facilitative investment regime.
- c) Explore new areas and develop appropriate measures for closer economic co-operation between the Parties.
- d) Facilitate the more effective economic integration of the new ASEAN Member States and bridge the development gap among the Parties [3].

India and ASEAN will seek to strengthen and enhance cooperation through the following ways:

- a) Progressive elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers in substantially all trade in goods.
- b) Progressive liberalization of trade in services with substantial sectoral coverage.
- c) Establishment of a liberal and competitive investment regime that facilitates and promotes investment within the India-ASEAN RTIA.
- d) Provision of special and differential treatment to the New ASEAN Member States.

Article 5 talks about investment and lays down the following points:

- a) To promote investments and to create a liberal, facilitative, transparent and competitive investment regime, the Parties agree to:
- b) Enter into negotiations in order to progressively liberalize their investment regimes.
- c) Strengthen cooperation in investment, facilitate investment and improve transparency of investment rules and regulations.
- d) Provide for the protection of investments [4].

India and European Union

India and the European Union are two pivotal poles in the new multi-polar system. As a result, there have been several summit-level meetings and high-level visits between India and the European Union. Research in areas including energy, commerce and investment, defence and security, nuclear and space, food security, climate change, science and technology, culture, and education has increased and improved since India's participation with the EU. Every member of the EU has received a special envoy to ask for their support in quitting the NSG in favour of

civil nuclear cooperation with the USA. The leaders of major European nations have had several meetings with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to address a range of topics. The presidents of the EU and other members delivered multiple comments denouncing the assaults after the terrorist attack in Mumbai in 2008. As a result, there is a very friendly connection between India and the European Union, and they are actively working on various accords [5].

Trade

The largest trade partner of India is the European Union. Twenty percent of all Indian trade is with the European Union. India, on the other hand, barely makes up 1.8% of trade with the EU and receives just 0.3% of the EU's foreign direct investment. India and the European Union expanded their trade by 20.3% in 2005. The quantity of commerce between India and the European Union increased significantly from 25.6 billion euros in 2000 to 55.6 billion euros in 2007. According to a report released in 2010, India was the eighth-largest trading partner of the European Union, behind China and Russia, and it was anticipated to grow even more. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had stated we have agreed to achieve an annual bilateral trade turnover of 100 billion euros within the next five years [6].

Technical and Financial Trade Assistance to India by the European Union

The European Union has made sure to guarantee trade-related technical support in order to continue helping India so that it can integrate into the global economy and to ensure progress in bilateral trade and investment links. The Trade and Investment Development Program, supported by the Country Strategy Paper 2002–2006, received 13.4 million euros. A follow-up program to the TIDP is now being developed, and the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 will provide the funding for it.

India And International Finance and Trade

For the study of trends of India's foreign trade during post-independence period, it is convenient to divide the entire period into seven phases.

1. **1948–49 to 1950–51:** The day before planning: India's international trade on the eve of planning showed a surplus of imports over exports. The following factors contributed significantly to the increase in imports:
 - a) The unmet demand as a result of various restraints imposed during the crises experienced during the war and the immediate aftermath.
 - b) The division resulted in a shortage of foodstuffs and raw materials like cotton and jute that are needed to add value.
 - c) The increase in capital goods imports, or machinery and equipment, to fulfil the growing need for hydroelectric and other projects started during the first Plan [7].
2. **1951-52 to 1955-56 (The First Plan Period):** The yearly average value of imports during the first plan period was in the neighborhood of 622 crores. This resulted in an average yearly trade imbalance of 108 crores. The start of industrialization was mostly to blame for the excess of imports over exports. As a result, the demand for capital goods increased.
3. **1956-57 to 1960-61 (The Second Plan Period):** A sizable industrialization program was started during the Second Plan. The government planned to build a number of steel

mills. Because they had aged and grown insufficient, railroads. The same industry as well as a few others were modernized. The need for machinery, equipment, and unprocessed industrial goods arose as a result of rapid industrialization. Additional to that, modernization of technology became essential. As a consequence, the volume of imports increased significantly. The second five-year plan's trade imbalance increased further as a consequence of the much-desired strategy of export diversification and export promotion push failing to materialize.

4. **1961-62 to 1965-66 (The Third Plan Period):** The Third Plan's export statistics show that, on average, 747 crores were earned annually from exports while 1,224 crores were spent on imports. Three causes led to an increase in import volume during the Third Plan. First, quick industrialization required significant imports of machinery, gear, raw materials for manufacturing, and technological know-how. Second, as a result of China and Pakistan's strikes, there is a greater need for defense. Finally, a significant amount of foodgrains were imported, in part because they were cheaply accessible and in part due to the widespread crop failure in 1965–1966 [8].
5. **Devaluation of 1966 and the period up to 1973–74:** Devaluation was a strategy that the government had to think about implementing in order to primarily reduce imports and boost exports. For the situation of the balance of payments to improve, it was necessary to boost exports over imports. Since the devaluation was announced during a year of drought and the next year also occurred to be a terrible weather year, it had the consequence of further escalating the trade imbalance. The government announced its plan to liberalize imports for 59 sectors the same year, which caused imports to increase significantly. Even though exports rose in 1966–67 and 1967–68 after the rupee's depreciation, the import bill skyrocketed to '92 crores in 1966–67 and '2043 crores in 1967–68 due to relative import inelasticity. As a result, the situation with the trade balance deteriorated in 1966–1967 and 1967–1968.

This was a result of many global variables that increased the cost of imports of newsprint, fertilizers, non-ferrous metals and steel, petroleum products, and other necessities. However, food grain imports fell between 1968 and 1969 because of a healthier yield. Additionally, depreciation has a positive impact on exports by encouraging them. In 1972–73, the nation's trade balance improved for the first time. It had been consistently negative ever since we were emancipated from foreign hegemony. Compared to the time periods of the second plan, third plan, and yearly plan, the nation overall had a considerably more pleasant state [9].

6. **1974–79 (The Fifth Plan Period):** The increase in oil prices that began in October 1973 had a significant impact on global trade patterns, and India was no exception. The price of India's main imports, particularly petroleum, fertilizers, and food grains, sharply increased throughout the Fifth Plan era, which contributed significantly to the high level of import value. During the Fifth Plan era, India's exports significantly improved concurrently and steadily increased each year. The increase was so rapid that by 1976–1977, exports at 5,143 crores were more than imports by 69 crores, leading to the second balance of trade surplus since 1951. During this time, there was a noticeable growth in the exports of handicrafts, coffee, tea, groundnuts, cotton textiles, ready-made clothing, and fish and fish preparations.
7. **1980 Onwards (The Sixth and Seventh Plan Period):** The import cost increased dramatically from 6,811 crores to over 9,142 crores in 1979–80, then to 12,549 crores in 1980–81, and finally to 13,608 crores in 1981–82 as a result of OPEC's continued

price increases for petroleum goods. Unprecedented trade imbalances were the outcome, despite rising exports. India's exports increased by '2,450 crores, a significantly smaller amount than the country's imports, which increased by '5,838 crores. Due to this severe deficit, the government was compelled to request a sizable loan from the International Monetary Fund in November 1981. During the Sixth Plan, yearly average imports were at 14,603 crores compared to annual average exports of 8987 crores. As a result, the sixth plan had a significant yearly average trade imbalance of around 5,716 crores.

The Congress-I government adopted the policy of indiscriminate liberalization, which was subsequently supported by the Janata Dal government. The seventh five-year plan had a significant trade imbalance. This scenario forced the Indian government to turn to loans from the IMF and World Bank.

- 8. India's Foreign Trade 1989–90 and subsequently:** The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) reports that in 1990–1991 exports increased by 17.7 percent to '32,558 crores as a result of the push given to export initiatives. However, as a result of the Gulf War, the government was unable to control imports, which rose by 22.6% to a record amount of 43,193 crores. The consequence was a significant trade imbalance of 10,635 crores.
- 9. Foreign Trade during the Eighth Plan:** Exports increased quickly between 1992–1993 and 1996–1997, jumping from US\$17866 million in 1992–1993 to US\$33470 million in 1996–1997, or a rise of almost 87 percent. However, because of a liberalization strategy and a decrease in customs taxes, imports increased from \$19,410 million in 1991–1992 to \$39132 million in 1996–1997, or by nearly 102%. As a result, the trade imbalance, which was at \$1545 million in 1991–1992, grew to \$5662 million in 1996–1997, more than tripling.
- 10. Foreign Trade during the Ninth Plan, the Tenth Plan and after:** There was a slowdown in India's foreign trade as a result of the sharp deterioration in the global economic environment in trade, the South-East Asian crisis, the continuation of Japan's recession, Russia's severe economic crisis in 1998, and the 2% drop in global output in 1997–1998 that contributed to the decline in global trade.

Direction of India's Foreign Trade

The globe should be divided into four major regions: America, Europe, Asia and Oceania, and Africa in order to evaluate the geographical orientation of India's international commerce. India has close ties with North America, which is made up of the USA and Canada, as far as the American continent is concerned. America's main nation is the USA, practically speaking. The nations of Latin America and other American nations did not forge significant trading ties. In 1951–1952, India exported more than 28% of its exports to the United States, of which 21% went to North America and 7% to Latin America. Less than 1% of all nations were from Latin America in 1979–1980, a decrease in their percentage over time. India and the UK have had strong trading ties in the past. In 1950–1951, Western Europe accounted for 30.5% of all European imports into India, or 31.5 percent of the total. In 1955–1966, Western Europe's percentage rose to 49%.

The UK's need to pay its pound debt to India and the substantial rise in the proportion of European Common Market nations particularly West Germany in India's imports are the two main causes of this. During the 1960s, our commerce with socialist East European nations including the USSR, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia,

and Yugoslavia increased. India exported around 8% of its total exports to this area in 1960–1961, while it bought 4% of its total imports from this region. But shortly after the Indo-Chinese War in 1962 and the Indo-Pak War in 1965, our commercial links with the socialist East European nations significantly strengthened. This group of nations supplied 22% of India's exports and 18% of its imports in the fiscal year 1969–1970. Nearly 84 percent of commerce with this area was contributed by the USSR, which was the major contributor. After the collapse of the USSR, we see a dramatic reduction in the proportion of Eastern Europe once again [10].

Our commerce with OECD nations, as well as those in Asia and Oceania, has been quite significant. India's exports to these nations climbed from around 28% of its total purchases in 1951–1952 to 32% in 1969–1970. In contrast, imports from these nations decreased from roughly 23% in 1951–1952 to 19% in 1969–1970. Two nations, especially Japan and Australia, were crucial to the ECAFE region's relevance. The percentage of exports from Japan and Australia, which was almost 15% in 1970–1971 has decreased to 2.6% in 2010–2011. Contrarily, over the same time period, the proportion of these two nations' imports into the United States decreased from 9.2% to 5.2%. However, as crude oil imports have grown in importance, OPEC nations have taken a very significant role in India's imports. With a reduction in the price of oil on the world market, OPEC nations' portion of our imports fell to 8.6% in 1986–1987 and then further to 6.8% in 2003–2004. However, the current increase in the price of petrol has once again increased the share of OPEC to 33.8% in 2010–2011.

Structure of India's Foreign Trade

During the First Plan era, 40% of India's imports were made up of consumer goods and food grains, demonstrating the degree of India's underdevelopment and its reliance on other nations even for a fundamental requirement like food grains. The imports of these products did, however, steadily decrease over time, falling by 35% during the Second and Third Plan era, 27% during the Fourth Plan, and 24% during the Fifth Plan. These imports made up 2.2% of all imports in 1990–1991. but, by 2002–2003, their percentage had risen to almost 4%. Although imports of food grains decreased significantly by 2000–01, a substantial rise in imports of edible oil was mostly to blame.

The import of food grains was seen to be excessive starting in 1957, thus these were organized with PL480 help from the USA. Food grain imports into India as a share of overall imports grew steadily up to the start of the Fourth Plan. Due to the drought and unavailability of domestic supply to completely fulfil domestic demand, it grew. Only under the Fourth Plan did food grain imports fall to 10% of total imports. In reality, due to the development of significant stocks of food grains, their import during several years in the 1970s was all but abolished, and in the 1990s, it was hardly noticeable. As a result, the structural changes in imports since 1951 demonstrate:

- i.** Rapid growth of industrialization necessitating increasing imports of capital goods and raw materials.
- ii.** Growing imports of raw materials on the basis of liberalization of imports for export promotion.
- iii.** Declining import of food grains and consumer goods due to the country becoming self-sufficient in food grains and other consumer goods, through agricultural and industrial growth.

- iv. Rapid growth in import bills of petroleum, oil and lubricants due to sharp rise in international prices and rapid increase in domestic demand.

Composition of India's Foreign Trade

Bulk imports and non-bulk imports are two different categories of imports. Bulk imports are further classified into the following three categories: Crude oil and petroleum products Bulk consumer products include grains and pulses, edible oils, sugar, paper and paperboard, rubber, pulp and waste paper, fertilizers, non-ferrous metals, as well as metallic ores, iron, and steel. Three categories are also used to categories non-bulk imports: Metals, machine tools, electrical and non-electrical machinery, transport equipment, and project items are examples of capital goods. Pearls, semi-precious stones, organic and inorganic chemicals, textiles, yarn, and fabrics, as well as cashew nuts are among the export-related products. Others include manufacturers of synthetic resins and plastics, professional and scientific equipment, coal and coke, chemicals, medical and pharmaceutical items, and non-metallic minerals. A detailed examination of the import data indicates a consistent upward trend in imports that was caused by both internal and external forces. The value of POL imports increased significantly throughout the 1970s as a result of a dramatic increase in oil prices by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1973–1974 and again in 1979–1980. This increase in import value continued into the 1980s. In 1979–1980, the economy experienced a severe drought. The annual growth rate of imports peaked in the 1980s at 13.1%, and from 1990–1991 to 2000–2001, it increased at an average rate of 18.2%. Between 2000–2001 and 2010–2011, the import growth rate increased to 21.4 percent.

RBI Billion December 2011, Economic Survey 2010–11

Exports increased from US \$ 36,822 million in 1999–2000 to US \$ 44,560 million in 2000–01, showing a sharp rise by 21.0 per cent. This was largely due to rupee depreciation along with trade liberalization, reduction in tariffs and more openness to foreign investment in export-oriented sectors like information technology. However, on the import side during 1999–2000 and 2000–01, there has been a sharp increase in the import bill due to increase in international price of crude oil.

Pattern of India's Foreign Trade

Exports of India are broadly classified into four categories:

- a) Agriculture and allied products which include coffee, tea, oil cakes, tobacco, cashew kernels, spices, sugar, raw cotton, rice, fish and fish preparations, meat and meat preparations, vegetable oils, fruits, vegetables and pulses.
- b) Ores and minerals include manganese ore, mica and iron ore.
- c) Manufactured goods include textiles and ready-made garments, jute manufactures, leather and footwear, handicrafts, jeweler including pearls and precious stones, chemicals, engineering goods and iron steel.
- d) Mineral fuels and lubricants.
 - i. The export percentage of engineering products climbed to 15.69% in 2010–11 from 15.30% in 2000–01. From 0.88 percent in 2000-01 to 0.27 percent in 2010-11, tea's share fell.
 - ii. The percentage of fruits and vegetables fell from 4.14 percent in 2000-01 to 0.42 percent in 2010-11. The percentage of cotton yarn and manufacturers fell from 7.77%

in 2000-01 to 2.14 % in 2010-11. In 2010–11, the percentage of leather and leather products manufacturers declined to 1.49 percent from 4.36 percent in 2000–01. From 0.81 percent in 2000-01 to 1.82 percent in 2010-11, iron ore share increased.

- iii. The tobacco share dropped from 4.26 percent in 2000-01 to 0.33 percent in 2010-11. From 1.01 percent in 2000-01 to 0.23 percent in 2010-11, cashew kernel share has declined. The percentage of ready-made clothing declined from 12.50% in 2000-01 to 4.41% in 2010-11.
- iv. The percentage of handicrafts declined from 18.6% in 2000-01 to 16.15% in 2010-11.
- v. The percentage of fish and fish preparation fell from 3.13 percent in 2000–01 to 1 percent in 2010–11. The percentage of rice consumption fell from 1.4% in 2000-01 to 0.93% in 2010-11. The percentage of chemical and related products fell from 13.21% in 2000-01 to 11.41% in 2010-11.

DISCUSSION

The interaction between India, ASEAN, and the European Union (EU) encompasses a complex web of political, economic, and strategic dimensions. Politically, these three actors engage in various bilateral and multilateral frameworks, such as the ASEAN-India Dialogue and the EU-India Summits, to foster dialogue, exchange views, and address common challenges. Economically, they are involved in robust trade partnerships, with ASEAN and the EU being important trading partners for India. The EU is India's largest trading partner in goods, while ASEAN is its fourth-largest trading partner. Additionally, India is actively engaged in negotiations for free trade agreements with both ASEAN and the EU, aiming to enhance economic integration and market access. Strategically, India seeks to strengthen its presence in the Indo-Pacific region and deepen cooperation with ASEAN and the EU to address regional security concerns, promote maritime security, and counterbalance China's influence. The trilateral engagement between India, ASEAN, and the EU holds significance not only for the actors involved but also for the broader regional and international dynamics. As these interactions evolve, the implications for global order, regional integration, and geopolitical shifts are likely to shape the future landscape of international relations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, interactions between India, ASEAN, and the EU show a dynamic and complex connection spanning the fields of politics, economics, and strategy. These three players' continued participation in bilateral and multilateral frameworks, promotion of economic alliances, and cooperation on regional security concerns have a substantial impact on regional integration, global governance, and the shifting power balance. In addition to bolstering each party's position, the trilateral cooperation between India, ASEAN, and the EU also helps to create a world that is more linked and interdependent. This engagement develops a deeper understanding of countries and opens the door for cooperative solutions to shared problems by encouraging communication, collaboration, and shared interests. India, ASEAN, and the EU must foster and improve their cooperation as the world's political and economic environment changes in order to build a more secure, prosperous, and inclusive future for everyone.

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CHAPTER 18

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INDIA AND THE NUCLEAR REGIME

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ABSTRACT:

A comprehensive analysis of India's engagement with the global nuclear regime. India's nuclear policy has long been a subject of interest and debate, especially since its emergence as a nuclear-armed state. This study explores India's historical journey from being a staunch advocate of nuclear disarmament to becoming a responsible nuclear power. It delves into India's motivations for pursuing nuclear weapons, its contentious relationship with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and the subsequent negotiations leading to the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement. Furthermore, the paper examines India's evolving nuclear doctrine and its efforts to gain recognition as a responsible nuclear state. By analyzing India's interactions with various international institutions and the impact of its nuclear policy on regional and global security dynamics, this study sheds light on India's role within the nuclear regime and its implications for the broader non-proliferation architecture.

KEYWORDS:

Arms Control, International Relations, Nuclear Deterrence, Nuclear Policy, Nuclear Weapons, Regional Security.

INTRODUCTION

The term threat to a nation has taken on a new significance with the development of nuclear weapons after World War II. Since the conclusion of globe War II, nations throughout the globe have continued to work towards developing nuclear weapons, which may be linked to factors like national strength, scientific and technical competence, as well as, of course, national prestige and security. The nuclear era had already begun when India attained independence in 1947, but Indian officials chose not to associate with any of the major power blocs. The authorities of India believed that because nuclear weapons were considered weapons of mass devastation, their non-use was crucial for the security of all countries in the globe. The authorities of India also acknowledged that nuclear technology was advantageous for economic growth, particularly for a country like India that had spent a long period under colonial authority. The Atomic Energy Act was approved by the Indian government in 1948 [1].

Above-ground nuclear testing began in the 1950s, and India took the lead in advocating for its cessation as the first step in putting an end to the nuclear arms race. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru said in a speech to the Lok Sabha on April 2, 1954, soon after a significant hydrogen bomb test, nuclear, chemical and biological energy and power should not be used to forge weapons of mass destruction. In addition to discussions for the ban and abolition of nuclear weapons, he asked for a standstill agreement to end nuclear testing in the meantime. Less than 65 tests had been conducted at that point in history. Our request was not answered. The nuclear weapons race continued unabatedly even after a 1963 agreement to suspend atmospheric nuclear testing was reached since nations had already perfected the capabilities to conduct underground nuclear tests [2].

Theoretically, every country in the world is aware that the elimination of nuclear weapons is necessary for maintaining global peace. On how to do this, countries are not entirely in agreement. The biggest danger facing the world and its countries now is the spread of nuclear weapons, yet nothing has been done to alter this nuclear order. India proposed the worldwide non-proliferation pact in 1965, along with a small number of non-aligned countries, under which nuclear weapon states would give up their nuclear arsenals in exchange for other nations not developing or acquiring such weapons. However, the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which India chose not to join, did not have this balance. Nine countries currently possess nuclear weapons, while more than thirty more have the means to do so. The main risk that emerges as a result of this access is that the distinction between using these weapons for military purposes and civilian purposes will soon be erased. As a result, the non-proliferation system is being threatened today, especially by countries like Iran and North Korea [3].

India initially shown its nuclear might in 1974. The world reacted angrily to these tests, which were at the time seen as a reckless violation of the non-proliferation pact. These tests were seen as serious risks to both international peace and national security. Debatable has always been India's goal of nuclearization. National security has been the primary motive, but there were other elements that also played a role in India joining the nuclear arms race. The first event that prompted India to consider the creation of a nuclear programme was China's nuclear device test. In the 1980s, when Pakistan was reported to have formidable nuclear capabilities, India advanced its nuclear programme after a period of nuclear sluggishness. In 1998, India carried out nuclear tests in retaliation to Pakistan's test launch of a medium-range Ghauri missile that was capable of hitting India's major cities. These tests by India, however, drew criticism in response to India's previous interactions with Pakistan about nuclear proliferation. India was also worried about Chinese support for Pakistan's nuclear programme, which threatened India's security from the north. India subsequently intensified its nuclear programme for reasons of national security [4].

India's nuclear strategy is really the result of extensive and thoughtful deliberation among prominent Indian citizens and leaders. Since its formation, the following factors have helped to determine India's nuclear policy:

- a) India continues to be adamantly opposed to the development of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- b) India has repeatedly wished for the international community to approve and carry out a time-bound disarmament programme that is devoid of any discriminatory clauses.
- c) India is committed to developing nuclear technology for peaceful uses with the ultimate goal of achieving economic independence.
- d) India has shown a willingness to subject to restrictions, inspections, and safeguards provided they are applied equally to all nations, regardless of their strength and influence.

India began pursuing a peaceful nuclear programme in the 1950s, but it wasn't until the 1960s that changes were made to the programme as a result of a number of events. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's passing prompted India to launch its nuclear programme in response to China's. India's military under preparedness was shown by its loss in the 1962 border dispute with China, which increased tensions between the two nations. In a true sense, the outcome of the conflict changed India's perspective on nuclear weapons. Indian policymakers began to doubt the rationality of their nuclear policies in the wake of China's nuclear weapon test in 1964. In 1964–1965, the nuclear debate was once again revived, this time focusing mostly on the danger posed by China.

There was a discussion over the need of building the bomb in India after the Chinese nuclear explosion. India engaged in several border-related confrontations with Pakistan in addition to its dispute with China. After defeating Pakistan in 1965, India intensified its efforts to create a nuclear weapon [5]. India started a more open programme towards the creation of nuclear weapons in 1970. The following factors led India to reconsider its nuclear justifications:

- a) Visit of US President Nixon to China.
- b) China's tilt towards Pakistan in the war of 1971 against India.
- c) China's launch of a long-range rocket carrying a satellite into the orbit.

India conducted its first underground nuclear explosion in 1974 as a result of these factors. India is now technically a nuclear power and the sixth nuclear power as a result of this test. But it also resulted in a number of issues. The first issue was that the global nuclear landscape was compounded by India's covert nuclear testing. The Pakistani government began its covert nuclear programme and obtained an additional justification to further its nuclear programmes. This test served as a clear impetus for Pakistan to create the Kahuta centrifuge for uranium enrichment. The burden of lesser nuclear power nations fell mostly on India. The western nations also criticized this program, and the US withdrew its help to India as a result. The results of these tests have the following effects, in brief [6].

Following the 1974 test, US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger advised India to postpone additional testing until after the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, which was slated for 1975. Kissinger was travelling in Delhi at the time. Like the US, the Canadian government was taken aback by the Indian test in May 1974. The Canadian-supported nuclear reactor CIRUS generated the plutonium that was utilised in the nuclear weapon. Indian authorities have previously told Canada on many occasions that the country's government had no plans to detonate a nuclear weapon. Mrs. Gandhi had received a warning from Prime Minister Trudeau that Canada would halt all nuclear cooperation with India as well as all economic assistance if India conducted any nuclear tests. Comparing the two replies, it can be seen that the American response was less severe than Canada's. The United States' restrained reaction was largely caused by the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Perhaps Henry Kissinger was afraid about alienating India at the time because he thought it would lead to India siding with the Soviet Union. Robert J. Einhorn, the Bill Clinton Administration's deputy assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation, If Indira Gandhi had moved through with a weapons programme in 1974, the NPT would have been a different non-proliferation agreement as several governments were still debating it at the time. The NPT was established in 1970. India effectively backed the NPT and helped its success at the time by not acquiring weapons [7].

As a result of US assistance and backing, Pakistan has grown to be a significant role in South Asian politics since Indira Gandhi's return to power in 1980. The US did not intervene with Pakistan's nuclear programme, and India had to postpone its nuclear tests in 1983-1983 for fear that the US would halt all funding. However, due to Pakistan's ongoing threat, India was forced to reconsider its nuclear programme. Rajiv Gandhi, who took office as India's prime minister in 1984 after the death of Indira Gandhi, put pressure on the United States to intervene with Pakistan's nuclear programme. However, India advanced its missile programme and an Integrated Guided Missile Programme was created in 1983 when the same was not done. The five missile systems' development was begun by IGMP in 1983. An anti-tank missile, two surface-to-air missiles, a medium-range surface-to-surface missile, and an intermediate-range missile were all included in the programme [8].

The underground nuclear explosions in India and Pakistan in the 1990s captured the attention

of the whole globe. India and Pakistan were seen as being on the verge of a nuclear conflict as South Asia became the centre of nuclear tension. India became a nuclear weapons state on May 11 and 13 when five nuclear bombs were detonated at Pokhran. Pakistan exploded six nuclear weapons between May 28 and May 30 near Chagai, before the smoke from Pokhran had even cleared. The security landscape in South Asia was completely altered by these events in the respective nations. India wasn't yet prepared to use nuclear weapons to undermine global security. New advancements in India's nuclear programme occurred in the 2000s. India and the US signed a deal for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in October 2008. The main components of the nuclear agreement between the United States and India are as follows:

- a) The agreement did not affect India's nuclear program development for military purposes.
- b) The countries agreed to facilitate nuclear trade.
- c) India and the US agreed to transfer nuclear materials, non-nuclear materials and equipment.
- d) India was allowed to develop strategic reserve of nuclear fuel.

Restraint and transparency have been hallmarks of India's nuclear strategy. In terms of the usage and testing of nuclear weapons, India has not broken any international treaties. India adopts a voluntary moratorium and forgoes nuclear test-firing. India has also expressed its willingness to take part in talks on a fissile material cut-off treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. This treaty's main goal is to stop the manufacturing of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices in the future. Additionally, India has successfully maintained control over the export of nuclear materials and associated technology.

In accordance with its nuclear strategy, India is allowed to advocate for multilateral worldwide disarmament in order to create a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear threats. While supporting all of these initiatives, India does not compromise on strengthening its position as a nuclear power. If India's security is endangered by the two nuclear-armed neighbors, India is prepared to demonstrate both its nuclear power and its missile defense system [9].

Nuclearization of South Asia-Viewing India's Nuclear Regime from a Broader Perspective

The world is now concerned about South Asia's nuclearization. India and Pakistan, the two nuclear-armed states in South Asia, have a long history of hostility in addition to sharing common borders. Both Pakistan and India engage in the research and manufacturing of more dependable nuclear weapons. According to study being done in this area, India and Pakistan are thought to each have close to 200 nuclear bombs. Because these nations are consistently generating fissile material, strengthening their ability to create plutonium, and deploying more delivery vehicles, nuclear specialists are increasingly concerned. Additionally, they are developing compact tactical nuclear weapons for fast deployment.

Another major worry for the international community is the spread of WMD in South Asia. It should be mentioned that India and Pakistan's nuclearization did not prevent the problems that have existed in these nations over the last several decades. Following India and Pakistan's nuclear tests, a number of strategists suggested that the balance of terror brought on by nuclear weapons would lessen the likelihood of conflict between India and Pakistan. In 1998, when both Pakistan and India conducted nuclear weapons tests, these presumptions were shown to be incorrect, and the two nations were on the verge of war in Kargil. It is also claimed that Pakistan placed its nuclear weapons along the Line of Control (LOC) during the conflict and

that Pakistan would have utilized these weapons to wreak havoc on South Asia if the conflict had continued.

The foreign policy between India and the US was significantly impacted by India's nuclearization. The Kargil caused the US to revise its mind regarding these South Asian countries becoming nuclear. Since then, the US has consistently put pressure on India and Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the conflict out of concern that a further standoff may result in a nuclear exchange, which would be bad for both of these countries as well as the rest of the globe. The US wants India and Pakistan to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) because it wants to avert conflict between India and Pakistan. Additionally, these countries are urged to take part in discussions for the Fissile Material Control Treaty and cease producing fissile material. Additionally, the US is exerting pressure on Pakistan and India to implement strict controls on the export of commodities and equipment associated with nuclear material. In many respects, this has affected and changed the foreign policies of both India and Pakistan as well as the United States [10].

DISCUSSION

India's participation in the international nuclear order has drawn a lot of attention and criticism. Over time, the nation's nuclear strategy has experienced major changes that have complicated interactions among the international community. The historical transition of India from supporting nuclear disarmament to developing nuclear weapons is a key component of its nuclear journey. This change in viewpoint may be linked to a number of things, including worries about the security of the area, geopolitical rivalry, and the need to protect national interests. It has been disputed how India feels about the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT attempts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, but India's refusal to ratify the pact has strained relations with certain nuclear-armed nations and others who support non-proliferation. India's position stems from its belief that the deal is unfair, favoring nuclear-armed nations while restricting the ambitions of rising countries. As a consequence, India is now known as a non-NPT nuclear weapon state, setting it apart from the nations that are officially recognized as possessing nuclear weapons under the pact. An important turning point in India's nuclear participation was the 2005 signing of the India-U.S.

Civil Nuclear Agreement. Even though India is a non-NPT state, this deal gave them access to civilian nuclear technology and fuel. India's diplomatic attempts to negotiate the complexity of the nuclear regime while defending its strategic interests were on full display throughout the discussions that led to this accord. Questions have been made about how this development affects the NPT's ability to keep up with changing global dynamics and how exceptionalism affects how nuclear policies are developed. India's nuclear strategy has changed through time, showing a move towards a more responsible and nuanced approach. The doctrine places a strong emphasis on a credible minimum deterrence posture, emphasizing retaliatory strike capacity above first-use principles. India insists that the only defensive purpose of its nuclear arsenal is to deter future aggressors. However, problems like command-and-control systems, the possibility of an escalation, and the effect of technical improvements on India's nuclear policy continue to raise worries. Security in the area and throughout the world may be impacted by India's contacts with international organizations and the larger nuclear regime. India's attitude to nuclear weapons has an effect on stability and non-proliferation efforts in South Asia and beyond since it is a nuclear-armed state with a developing economy and major regional influence. India's position within the nuclear system is heavily influenced by its responsible behavior, dedication to disarmament measures, and attempts to engage the international community constructively.

CONCLUSION

India's involvement in the international nuclear order is a complex and developing topic. Discussions and disputes on the nation's shift from supporting nuclear disarmament to developing nuclear weapons have been intense. In order to fulfil the ambitions of growing nations while upholding the non-proliferation objectives of the international community, a balanced strategy is required. Tensions have been raised by India's choice to not join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). An important step was taken with the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement, which gave India access to civilian nuclear technology despite its non-NPT status. The significance of pragmatic and strategic considerations in formulating nuclear policy is underlined by this agreement. A responsible approach may be seen in India's emerging nuclear strategy, which places a strong focus on credible minimum deterrence, despite ongoing worries about problems like command and control and escalation risks. India's relationships with international organizations and dedication to disarmament measures are essential to determining how it would play a role in the nuclear order. India's behavior has ramifications for regional and global security dynamics as a nuclear-armed state with regional sway. To positively contribute to peace, non-proliferation efforts, and strategic stability in South Asia and beyond, India must participate in responsible behavior, transparency, and international relations. The difficulties brought on by India's nuclear participation will need ongoing international discussion and cooperation. It is a challenging endeavor that calls for persistent efforts and positive engagement to strike a balance between the objectives of developing nations and the necessity to defend non-proliferation aims. India and the international nuclear system may cooperate to create a safer and more stable world by developing confidence, advancing disarmament, and bolstering nuclear security measures.

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CHAPTER 19

OVERVIEW OF THE INSTITUTIONS, ACTORS AND TRENDS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

A concise overview of the institutions, actors, and trends that shape India's foreign policy. It highlights the complexity and dynamism of India's approach to international relations, showcasing the multifaceted nature of its engagement on the global stage. The chapter also emphasizes the evolving role of key institutions and influential actors in shaping India's foreign policy decisions. Additionally, it acknowledges the significant trends that have emerged in recent years, which have both regional and global implications. Overall, this chapter offers a comprehensive glimpse into the dynamic landscape of India's foreign policy and its impact on the country's relationships with the international community.

KEYWORDS:

Foreign Policy, International Relations, Multilateral diplomacy, National Interests, Regional Dynamics, Strategic Partnerships.

INTRODUCTION

It is said that developing India's foreign policy is a difficult undertaking that involves a number of organizations and individuals. The Indian foreign policy addresses not only how and why India must have friendly ties with other nations, but also how India can keep its security in times of need. Indian foreign policy must also take into account the nation's federal structure, which necessitates analyzing the demands and contributions of all the nation's states. Additionally, as many Indian states share international borders, their importance in the development of foreign policy cannot be understated. Given that India is a developing middle power that depends on the backing of many other nations to become a great power, the direction of India's foreign policy is a crucial area of policy. The institutions and participants in India's foreign policy, the link between Indian federalism and India's foreign policy, and the direction of India's foreign policy are all covered in this section [1].

Institutions And Actors in India's Foreign Policy: Ministry of External Affairs, National Security Council, Parliament, Media and Public Opinion

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's foreign policy has become more active. The country's goals are quite obvious from its foreign policy. The five goals that make up India's foreign policy are as follows:

- i. **Neighborhood First:** This is an objective that aims at improving connectivity and mitigating nationalism. Neighborhood First is a term used by the Indian government to indicate the following:
 - a) Indian government's willingness to give political and diplomatic priority to its immediate neighbors as well as the Indian Ocean Island states.

- b) Provide support to the neighbors in the form of resources, equipment and training.
- c) Aim for greater connectivity and integration so as to encourage free flow of good, people, energy, information and capital.
- d) Promote a model of India-led regionalism with which the neighboring countries are comfortable.

India has taken concrete steps to improve its relations with all its neighboring countries to promote goodwill, connectivity and improve economic ties [2].

- ii. **Bridging Diplomacy and Development:** India's foreign policy has made fostering international collaborations for domestic development a top priority. This involves expanding access to technology, obtaining funding, implementing best practises, gaining access to markets, and protecting natural resources. The Indian government has launched a number of initiatives, such as foreign partnerships, to enhance international ties. India has seen good and remarkable internal changes as a result of these foreign collaborations, but there is still more that India can do to advance economically, socially, and technologically.
- iii. **Acting East as China rises:** In an effort to integrate India with Asia, Prime Minister Modi replaced the Look East Policy with the Act East Policy. India has been concerned about China's growing might and the shifting balance of power in Asia. The 'Act East' strategy of India has three major elements in terms of the larger strategic setting in Asia: institutional, commercial, and security-related. Aspects like institutional engagement have seen increased success over time, while gains have been seen recently in bilateral and minilateral security cooperation. Maintaining military balance along the contentious border with China continues to be the key concern [3].
- iv. **Pakistan-engagement and Isolation:** Over the last several years, India and Pakistan's ties have deteriorated. These two nations' development of nuclear weapons has led to an uneasy peace. Despite India's attempts, Pakistan has not liberalized its economy for it, and another aspect that has raised concerns is the rise of Pakistani terrorism in India. Although various agreements and attempts have been made, relations between India and Pakistan remain strained. None of the Indian administrations have harbored any illusions about improving relations with Pakistan. The Modi administration has not received many compliments for its engagement with Pakistan on a bilateral basis or for its isolation of Pakistan under Indian policy, but there is still hope for ties with Pakistan to improve.
- v. **India as a Leading Power:** India's foreign policy is designed to meet the country's aspirations of becoming a world power. India is making tiny moves towards being a leader, but it is not yet ready and poised to do so. India has been working to get a voice at the international level and is developing leadership skills by recognizing and embracing the global system [4].

The following are considered to be the objectives of a foreign policy of India:

- i. A foreign policy defends the nation's cohesion and integrity. India's foreign policy towards China serves as a good illustration of this. It attempts to protect India's territorial integrity by rejecting Chinese claims to Indian territory. In this instance, India observes inaccurate maps published by other nations and organizations and requests that they identify the borders properly.

- ii. A foreign policy upholds the objectives of the populace. The country's economic interests and the welfare of its population are both promoted through its foreign policy.
- iii. Upholding and defending the interests of a country's population outside of its borders is another goal of foreign policy. For instance, the institutions and important actors in India's foreign policy are looking at the subject of racial discrimination.
- iv. The foreign policy also attempts to safeguard the feelings and dignity of persons of Indian descent over the globe [5].

The factors that affect the formation of a foreign policy are:

- i. **Size:** The size of the territory of a nation plays an important role in the formulation of the foreign policy. The bigger the territorial size, the greater role a nation can play in the international relations. India's size and population provide strength to the formulation of the foreign policy.
- ii. **Geography:** The location of a country and its geography also play a vital role in the formulation of the foreign policy. A state's climate, fertility of soil, access to waterways, deposits of mineral resources, diversity of crops, availability of drinking water etc. affect and influence its foreign policy. Sufficiency of these factors makes the state self-sufficient, and thus, it can assert importance in relations with other states. India is geo- politically at a strategic location in Asia and therefore plays a pivotal role in the international relations.
- iii. **History and Culture:** The historical experiences and cultural traditions of a country play an important role in the formulation of the foreign policy. Generally, nations that have a unified historical experiences and culture find it easier to formulate a foreign policy for the benefit of the citizens [6].
- iv. **Economic Development:** The level of economic development of a nation also affects the formulation of the foreign policy. The countries which are highly industrially advanced play a dominant role in the international politics and relations. Highly economically developed countries have large resources at their disposal and therefore can offer help and benefits to other states thereby in many ways leading the international front. Developing countries like India remain dependent on highly industrialized countries and therefore need to adjust their foreign policy to make the maximum use of the resources made available for progress and economic development.
- v. **Technological Progress:** Countries that are highly industrialized are also technologically much advanced as compared to the developing countries. Technological changes and advancement can affect military and economic capabilities of a nation which are important aspects of the foreign policy of a nation.
- vi. **Military Preparedness:** The capability of a nation to exhibit its military prowess in defending its borders is a detrimental factor in the development of the foreign policy. Militarily capable states are able to control the international arena in a much better manner as compared to the nations that do not have or have a not well-trained military. India's foreign policy for instance after nuclearization has gained greater dimensions [7].
- vii. **National Capacity:** The national capacity of a state is comprised of its economic development, technological advancement and military preparedness. A country

with a strong national capacity can highly impact the relations with other states and also play an important role in the international arena. For instance, China today is exerting influence on international relations because it has become sure and confident of its national capacity.

- viii. **Social Structure:** The social structure of a nation in many ways affects the formulation of the foreign policy. A nation which is divided on racial and religious lines struggles to put forward a strong stand as far as the foreign relations are concerned. A homogenous state, on the other hand, is able to formulate a strong and coherent foreign policy [8].
- ix. **State Ideology:** The ideology of a state affects the formulation of its foreign policy. A state with democratic values of open debate and dissent tend to listen to the public opinion seriously. Under a democratic set up, pressure groups, political parties with different shades of ideologies and press indulges in the creation of public opinion that deeply influences foreign policy of a country. In authoritarian systems however, it is just the government that plays a pivotal role in the formulation of the foreign policy.
- x. **Form of Government:** The type of government in a nation also plays a major role in the formulation of its foreign policy. For instance, where the form of government is authoritarian, foreign policy decisions can be made quickly as opposed to when it comes to a democratic form of government.
- xi. **Internet:** The Internet today is influencing foreign policy decisions of any nation. Internet has become central to voicing public opinions and decisions which in many ways are considered by the governments to take foreign policy decisions.
- xii. **Leadership:** Leadership plays an important role in the foreign policy of the state. A strong leader can impose greater pressure on the international relations thereby promoting the country's interests in a positive manner.
- xiii. **World Situation:** The world situation also plays an important role in the development of a foreign policy. World politics is important for the formation of the foreign policy of any nation [9].
- xiv. **Military Strength of Adversaries:** The military strength of the adversaries also plays an important role in the formation of the foreign policy of a nation. For instance, India's foreign policy has undergone several changes because of the growing military strength of China as well as Pakistan.

Foreign policy is therefore formulated by considering the aforementioned factors and the process undergoes several stages with several institutions and eminent people playing an important role in the formulation. The decision-making process takes place at various levels of foreign policy formulation. The institutions that play a major role in the development of a foreign policy in India can be divided into formal and informal institutions. Some of these are described below:

- i. **Ruling Elite:** The ruling elite play an important role in the formulation of India's foreign policy. The perceptions of the foreign and domestic relations of this elite are important and detrimental in the formulation of the foreign policy.
- ii. **Public Opinion:** In a democratic country like India, the power of sovereignty lies with the people. Therefore, in all political decisions and even foreign policy

formulation, public opinion plays an important role.

- iii. **Pressure Groups:** Pressure groups also play a detrimental role in the formulation of the foreign policy of India. Of late, business people, arms agents and Non-Resident Indians have started playing an important role in the formulation of the foreign policy of India.
- iv. **Parliament:** Parliament in India plays an important role in essaying the foreign policy. Issues and decisions related to foreign policy come up and are discussed in the parliament before concrete decisions can be taken. There are several parliamentary committees that play a vital role in framing the foreign policy of India and preventing deviations in it.

Described below are a few institutions and actors that influence the formulation of the foreign policy in India:

- i. **The Ministry of External Affairs:** Making foreign policy is a challenging and complicated endeavour that calls for timely access to precise facts. The Ministry of External Affairs is in charge of maintaining all pertinent data and offering recommendations for formulating foreign policy. This Ministry is regarded as the repository of knowledge on international issues. The head of the Ministry of External Affairs is the Minister of External Affairs, commonly known as the Foreign Minister. A political appointment, the country's foreign affairs minister is responsible for formulating all foreign policy decisions. The MEA is predominantly staffed by representatives of the Indian Foreign Service, who were chosen via competitive exams held by the Union Public Service Commission. The Permanent Head of the Ministry is the Foreign Secretary, a highly senior and experienced IFS official. He serves as the Foreign Minister's key counsellor.

The Foreign Secretary is supported by the Foreign Secretary and Foreign Secretary, two other senior officials. Each of the twenty-four departments that make up the Ministry of External Affairs' activities is led by a joint secretary. There are twelve territorial divisions, each dealing with a collection of nations within a certain geographic area, such as North and South America, the Gulf, East Asia, and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Eleven functional sections are included, including the UN, Protocol, External Publicity, History, and Policy Planning. There is a single administrative division that manages the MEA's day-to-day operations. To operate in foreign embassies in various nations, IFS representatives are sent overseas. Along with doing a number of other functions, these embassies gather data on global development. The MEA personnel also gather information covertly in addition to this data about the states. The development of the nation's foreign policy depends heavily on this intelligence information. The Research and Analysis Wing is the unit that gathers this intelligence data [10].

- ii. **National Security Council:** The Prime Minister is counselled on issues pertaining to national security and strategic interest by the National Security Council, an executive government body. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee established the National Security Council for the first time in 1998. The National Security Council's operations are not observed by the National Security Advisor. The Deputy National Security Advisor, the Ministers of Defense, External Affairs, Home Affairs, and Finance, as well as the Vice Chairman of the Indian Planning Commission, are additional members of the National Security Council. The National Security Council is essentially an apex entity that manages national security on a three-tiered

system. The other two levels of the NSC are the Strategic Policy Group and the National Security Advisory Board. The National Security Council's primary decision-making body is the Strategic Policy Group. This committee conducts the strategic defense review and determines the best course of security and defense. The Joint Intelligence Committee evaluates intelligence data and makes significant intelligence-related decisions. Members of the National Security Advisory Board are notable individuals from the outside world. These individuals might be authorities in the fields of science, technology, international affairs, defense, strategic analysis, and internal and national security. It meets as often as necessary and gives the NSC a long-term outlook and analysis in addition to making recommendations for policy matters that are presented to it.

- iii. **Prime Minister's Office:** Every choice that is taken in the nation now heavily weighs the position of prime minister. The Prime Minister's Office, or PMO, is crucial in the development of the nation's foreign policy. Not all foreign policy decisions, however, are made at the PMO. The Prime Minister's Office takes into account and deals with decisions pertaining to national security, foreign policy objectives, as well as matters crucial to the nation's economic growth. The PMO is home to a sizable number of Joint Secretaries, deputy-secretaries, OSDs, and other employees, each of whom is responsible for a distinct component of the functioning of the Prime Minister.
- iv. **Parliament:** Since the parliament is the entity that represents the people, it has the greatest authority and influence over determining foreign policy. The Parliament has exclusive authority to make decisions about a number of matters pertaining to foreign policy. For instance, the Parliament has the exclusive authority to decide on matters relating to diplomatic, consular, and commercial representation, war and peace, the United Nations, citizenship, naturalization, etc. Treaties with foreign nations may be drafted and approved by the Parliament. The Parliament also makes choices about the funding of the nation's national security institutions and foreign policy initiatives. To make decisions about issues of foreign policy, the Parliament uses established parliamentary committees. These committees look at defense and foreign policy-related topics and assist Parliament in making the best choices on various foreign policy matters.
- v. **Media and Public Opinion:** When it comes to formulating foreign policy decisions, the media and public opinion inevitably have an impact. The foreign ministry receives information on the environment, society's responses to it, and the environment's changing external appearance through the media and public opinion. When it comes to matters of national security, media and public opinion offer the necessary backing to the established authorities and norms. The media and public opinion serve as a source of input to provide the crucial information concerning foreign policy issues. To influence decision-making and address societal issues on a larger scale, the media and public opinion also play a role as output sources. The leaders utilise the media and public opinion in a variety of ways to persuade the populace to accept their choices by making the essential facts accessible. When an external, worldwide event occurs, leaders learn from it by listening to the media and the public. This is a complicated process that involves media and public opinion. Foreign policy issues are debated and judgements are taken after this information has been digested in a variety of ways. Public opinion and the media are also involved in this process. The public learns about choices or policies made by the

foreign affairs ministry via the media, and while making decisions, public opinion and the role of the media are taken into account.

DISCUSSION

India's foreign policy landscape includes organizations, people, and trends that have a significant impact on how the nation engages with the world and makes strategic decisions. A multi-tiered administrative structure, including the Ministry of External Affairs, the National Security Council, and specialized organizations like the Indian Council of World Affairs, governs India's foreign policy. These organizations provide the knowledge, organization, and policy-making required to guarantee that India's foreign policy is consistent. The individuals who actively contribute to developing and carrying out India's foreign policy are at its core. The Prime Minister is in charge of leading and advancing India's interests on the international arena, together with the Minister of External Affairs. Important diplomats, ambassadors, and envoys stationed overseas are also essential players in carrying out India's foreign policy goals. Non-state actors that provide a variety of viewpoints and experience to the development and application of foreign policy include corporate executives, members of civil society organizations, and think tanks. In recent years, a number of notable developments have appeared in India's foreign policy landscape.

In order to protect its national interests and establish itself as a powerful voice on international forums, India has taken a more forceful and proactive position in world affairs. Increased bilateral and multilateral interactions, aggressive diplomacy, and extended alliances with both conventional and unconventional allies are characteristics of this movement. India's foreign policy decisions are greatly influenced by regional factors as well. India has prioritized strengthening ties with its neighbors, especially those in South Asia and the Indian Ocean area, as a result of its geographic position and rising regional prominence. Priorities include tackling common issues including security, commerce, and climate change as well as boosting connectivity and strengthening regional cooperation. In addition, India has aggressively attempted to strengthen its strategic alliances with the United States, Russia, Japan, and the nations of the European Union. These alliances span a variety of fields, including counterterrorism, commerce, and defense. Additionally, India has shown its commitment to influencing global governance and tackling global concerns via its involvement with international organizations like the United Nations, BRICS, and G20.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India's foreign policy institutions, players, and trends reflect the country's changing position and objectives in the world. The complex institutional setting offers the context and knowledge required for developing and carrying out foreign policy plans. In order to ensure a varied variety of opinions and experience, key players, including government officials, diplomats, and non-state actors, participate to the decision-making process. In particular, aggressiveness, regional involvement, and strategic alliances with powerful nations throughout the world characterize India's foreign policy. These developments show India's expanding power and desire to influence world politics while defending its own interests. Understanding and analyzing the institutions, players, and trends of India's foreign policy will continue to be crucial for understanding its position as a significant global player as it navigates a complex and fast changing international context.

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CHAPTER 20

AN ANALYSIS OF THE INDIAN FEDERALISM AND FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT:

The intricate relationship between Indian federalism and foreign policy. India's federal structure, characterized by a multi-tiered governance system, presents unique challenges and opportunities in formulating and implementing foreign policy decisions. The paper examines the dynamics of power sharing between the central government and the states, highlighting how federalism influences India's engagement with the international community. It also analyzes the impact of domestic factors, such as regional politics and divergent state interests, on the formulation of foreign policy. By delving into this complex interplay between federalism and foreign policy, this study aims to shed light on the distinctive features and implications of India's approach to global affairs.

KEYWORDS:

Central Government, Decentralization, Federal Structure, Foreign Relations, Governance System.

INTRODUCTION

The political, legislative, and financial power in India is split between the centre and the state, with the centre having the main jurisdiction over all facets of the Indian politics, according to the Indian Constitution. While the center has exclusive control over topics pertaining to finance, defence, commerce, telecommunications, and foreign investments, the states also have some control over issues that are crucial to the environment for foreign investment in India. When the federal government's center and states cooperate, the system functions effectively. India's internal and foreign security are seriously impacted by the current situation of the central government's politics. Before discussing Indian federalism and foreign policy creation, it is important to comprehend the geographical and geopolitical positions of India and its states. Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Maldives are all neighbors of India. India's relationships with each of these nations directly affect the states in the nation. India-Pakistan relations have an impact on the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir. India-China ties will have an impact on the states of Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

India-Nepal relations will have an impact on Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, and West Bengal. India-Bhutan relations will have an impact on West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Assam. India-Myanmar relations will have an impact on Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. India-Bangladesh relations will have an impact on West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya [1], [2]. Early on after gaining independence, India's foreign policy prioritised the security and national interests of the whole nation, sometimes neglecting the interests of the neighbouring nations. For instance, the Sirimavo-Shastri Pact of October 1964, which granted Indian citizenship to significant portions of the population of Sri Lanka, was reached without taking the interests of the impacted people into account. Important political groups in Tamil Nadu also rejected it. The situation quickly started to alter, however,

when coalition administrations were established at the center after the Indian National Congress' hegemony ended. The regional parties of the states provide the center their opinion and, in many cases, have an impact on the foreign policy that is created. The center also agrees to these suggestions and requests that it continue to get support from the regional parties in order to sustain its hold on the government. For instance, during the Fourth Eelam War's latter phases, the Karunanidhi-led DMK administration supported the Center's policy towards Sri Lanka.

It makes sense that Karunanidhi was given permission by New Delhi to use political ploys to position himself as the Tamils' rescuer. It is challenging for the central to ignore the requests of the states when it comes to formulating foreign policy because of the political backing that is there within the federating units [2], [3]. The national parties that make up the majority of the central government are fading in the regions. The states support their regional parties instead of the national parties, which is noteworthy since it is thought that the national parties ignore and fail to meet their needs. This in turn puts pressure on the central government to ensure that the requests and suggestions put forward by each state are assessed and taken into consideration when formulating foreign policy. This claim made by regional parties is really working as a check on the federal structure of the Indian politics. Since India's independence, it can be claimed that the country's foreign policy has been far from federal in nature. When making decisions on foreign policy, the states and regions were not taken into account. Today, however, the central government in New Delhi requests that the regions exert their influence in the formulation of foreign policy, particularly with regard to interactions with bordering nations.

While the participation of the state in the formulation of foreign policy reveals the actual character of Indian democracy, there is also concern about how regional political parties might affect the structure of the central government and its ability to formulate foreign policy. In addition, there are significant discrepancies between the central and state governments' viewpoints on how to formulate foreign policy.

For instance, the Teesta water-sharing deal between India and Bangladesh was stalled by Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal and Trinamool leader, leaving New Delhi in the lurch. The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, which calls for the exchange of 161 enclaves that India and Bangladesh unfairly hold in each other's territories and the alteration of certain country borders, sparked outrage from the regional parties in Assam. When forming a foreign policy, situations like this often compel the central government to disregard the opinions of the state. For instance, while developing the Look East Policy, the central government did not take the opinions of the North Eastern states into account. On the other hand, the state governments become less interested in supplying the central government with the essential information and inputs when the central government develops foreign policy without taking the opinions of the state governments into consideration [4], [5].

In reality, there is now a lot of discussion about the function of the federal states in the creation of foreign policy. There are a number of claims that various academics are making. One key claim is that when nations participate in the formation of foreign policy, regional actors regard their own interests rather than that of their own countries. This is mostly due to the regionalization of politics and the establishment of coalition governments at the national level. Additionally, the regional parties' stance on foreign policy is primarily determined by the compromises and discussions they have with the state administration. Additionally, it is said that the state and the centre often disagree on issues of foreign policy. These disputes are mostly caused by political and institutional inertia under a system where the centre, with a coalition government, must take into account its regional parties as well, rather than the political system's

fragmentation. Foreign policy formation has suffered as a result of India's economic reforms. The decentralization of political and legislative authority in India has coincided with economic changes, with regional parties and states now actively engaging in and negotiating with the world economy. Therefore, the states play a crucial role in the formation of foreign policy, particularly in the context of economic growth. Additionally, in a globalized and decentralized world, India's states have become important players in economic and developmental fields, increasing their holdings in their neighboring nations. Therefore, from this perspective, it is crucial that the state and the center work together to develop foreign policy. Although the central government has exclusive authority over foreign policy, the effectiveness of many of these centrally developed foreign policies depends on the participation of the regions. Let's use the connection between India and Sri Lanka as an example, together with the role played by the state of Tamil Nadu, to attempt to grasp this aspect.

India and Sri Lanka: Foreign Policy and the Role of Tamil Nadu as a Federal Unit in the Indian Foreign Policy

Since the beginning of time, when Buddhist monks went to Sri Lanka to promote Buddhism, India and Sri Lanka have maintained diplomatic ties. When Tamil slaves from India were sent to Sri Lanka to work in tea plantations under the British Rule, this relationship was further solidified. Since then, successful political experiments have taken place in both India and Sri Lanka, and both countries now use a complementary approach to both international affairs and local politics. However, there were disagreements among the Tamils when the decision was made to make Sinhalese the official language. Conflicts between Tamils and Sinhalese occurred in Sri Lanka, and this led to issues in Tamil Nadu, India [6].

The citizenship of Tamils from India in Sri Lanka was another issue. In a 1964 deal, India and Sri Lanka agreed that Sri Lanka would provide citizenship to 3 lakh Tamils and India would accept back 5.5 lakh Tamil refugees. However, 1.3 lakh Tamils continued to lack citizenship, and the situation became worse as numerous Tamils fled to India to avoid the atrocities committed by the army and the general populace. Under pressure from the Tamil Nadu state, the Indian government brought the issue up with the Sri Lankan government.

Hardline Tamils who turned to armed insurrection against the Sri Lankan government and sought to establish a separate Tamil state in the island's north founded the Liberation Tigers of Tamils in the 1980s. But this went against India's then-current foreign policy. For India, this was a test of its international relations. Both India had chosen a moral stance in accordance with its foreign policy ideals and there was rising sentimentality among Tamils in India, who pressed India to interfere in the situation. India made the mistake of sending a peacekeeping force in 1986, which resulted in the deaths of several Tamils of Indian ancestry. It increased friction between the nations and contributed to Rajiv Gandhi's murder, who was the then-prime minister. The LTTE persisted in its unrest, and Sri Lanka's Island was in an uproar. Sri Lanka was successful in destroying the LTTE in 2011. The two nations have maintained friendly ties ever since [7].

Role of States in India's Foreign Policy

On the map of India, we can observe that several of the state's border nations outside of India. These nations have had some kind of impact on foreign policy choices. Additionally, these states have an interest in the nation's foreign policy in one way or another. States in the northeast are situated in delicate areas. All of the countries in the North East have boundaries. As a result, illegal migration is a challenging problem in this region, and these North Eastern states are particularly important for the security and development of India. These nations are also crucial to India's ties with China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. These

nations play a significant role in India's Look East Policy, which entails interactions with the 10 ASEAN member nations. The ASEAN area might undergo a dramatic transformation thanks to the North East.

Few states have significant influence on international ties with certain significant nations. Kerala is significant because there are many Keralites in the Gulf area, where it plays a significant role. Kerala is significant in terms of Indian connections with Italy. Kerala's public opinion was outraged after two fishermen were killed by Italian security guards, which sparked a nationwide outcry. Jammu and Kashmir has been crucial to India's ties with Pakistan. Cross-border terrorism has made India a victim, and several infiltrations from Jammu and Kashmir's Line of Control have soured ties between India and Pakistan. Additionally, a number of states, including Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, and Bihar, have inhabitants or relatives who live abroad, and as a result, they have an impact on India's foreign policy [8].

When it comes to developing foreign policy, the different governments are accountable for the following:

- a) Promotion of international peace and security.
- b) Maintenance of just and honorable relations between the various nations.
- c) Fostering of respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- d) Encouragement of settlement of international disputes.
- e) Diplomatic, trade and consular representation.
- f) Participation in international conferences and conventions.
- g) Promotion of pilgrimages to places outside India.

Future Direction of India's Foreign Policy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration in India has been very active in international relations. The Prime Minister not only travelled to several neighboring and foreign nations for bilateral and multilateral meetings, but he also hosted a large number of international delegations to help India gain a foothold in contemporary global politics. However, the issue that arises is what has been the impetus for India's foreign policy and if such a foreign policy is restricted to only this administration or will it continue in the same form going forward. India is now seen as a rising global force. India has drawn attention from both its own elite and the rest of the world as a growing global and powerhouse thanks to many years of sustained high growth rate and weathering the financial crisis of 2007–2008. When it comes to India's growth, we cannot dispute the fact that its population is rising and will likely soon surpass that of China. As a result, it is impossible to predict whether India will be able to maintain the same economic growth rate, which is a requirement for India to become a superpower.

With India's expanding economic and nuclear capabilities, it is certain to become one of the biggest super powers. India is investing more money on defence and making deliberate efforts to modernise its military while it continues to experience economic growth. India's current status as a global force, however, can only be assessed by contrasting it with the most developed nations in the globe. The traditional methods of measuring and comparing powers involve counting the indicators of military, economic, and other forms of power. For military power, these indicators include: nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles. the size of armies, air forces, and navies. the number of foreign bases and power projection capabilities. space-based assets.

and cyberspace capabilities. For economic power, these indicators include: absolute and relative GDP, world trade shares, foreign exchange reserves, tax revenues, military budgets, and the number of industrialized nations [9].

The nations may be classified as super powers, great powers, medium powers, and developing powers based on the aforementioned characteristics. A superpower, according to authors Barry Buzan and Ole Waever, is a state that, first, has broad spectrum of military, economic, etc. capabilities that are exercised globally, that is, a power with comprehensive global reach, and, second, that is acknowledged as such by others in their calculations. According to American political scientist John Mearsheimer, a superpower must have extensive military capabilities, as well as the economic and technological foundations that support them. In addition, a superpower must be able to extend its reach and influence beyond any one region. A nation that has considerable capability but not in all sectors of influence is considered a great power. A regional power is a nation whose influence is limited to its own area, and its position as a regional power is primarily determined by its military might rather than its economic prowess. The idea of a middling power is rather ambiguous. A medium power might be thought of as a nation that is unable to overcome a great power but has the capacity to fend off their demands, albeit lacking the system-shaping and -defining capacities.

According to scholars, power transitions may and do occur throughout time, implying that a rising power may develop into a medium power and that a middle power may even develop into a great power. According to experts, this transformation is caused by industrialization, rising military and technical prowess, expanded global prowess, and a change in the power dynamics between states and nations. Additionally, this change in power raises the possibility of conflict between nations. When it comes to India, it is safe to say that it is unquestionably not a big power. Despite having nuclear weapons and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, it does not firmly dominate its own territory, has major extra-regional power projection capabilities, and is not a system-shaping force in terms of the military or economic balance. However, India is also a significant economic and political force in the globe and cannot be disregarded.

India is a medium power in the truest meaning of the term. India is a middling power and a rising power in the current world power structure. In other words, India is going through a power shift and might eventually become a major power. India's potential as a regional force is now limited by the nuclear weapons that China and Pakistan, its neighbors, have. India is consequently seen to be unable to stop Pakistan from using terror weaponry on a regular basis. Additionally, India is continuously working to modernize its military might. India cannot acquire the ability to project electricity due to the size of the Indian Ocean in the south. India is a confined power in South Asia as a result. The other nations of South Asia do not see India as the region's natural leader and do not recognize its authority over them. India is thus not the dominant state in South Asia, which calls into question its position as a regional power even if it has regional weight and influence. India is undoubtedly a developing middle power due to its burgeoning economic might [10].

In addition to this growing strength, India is also constrained by a number of factors. It is largely reliant on imported fuel and resources. India also has a shaky technical and industrial foundation. Additionally, it imports weapons, is highly reliant on foreign manufacturers for all key platforms, including combat aircraft, surface ships, submarines, tanks, and artillery, and has a strictly regulated nuclear arsenal. The following components would make up any future foreign policy of India as a developing middle power:

- a) **Elements of Continuity:** Constricted ties with China and Pakistan have been India's main sources of continuity for many years. There are several unsolved conflicts with these nations, and restrictions on the spread of nuclear weapons coupled with border and territory disputes have also been a concern. India has engaged in hostilities with both China and Pakistan. India's foreign policy towards these nations has been hampered by these military conflicts. Since the disagreements have not been resolved, the situation does not seem to be changing in the future. Due to Pakistan's growing support for terrorism, relations with Pakistan are virtually at an impasse. The Line of Actual Control is a common site of confrontation with China as well, and despite growing commercial ties, security ties with China are still limited.

While China's expanding military might still pose a danger, it also poses a risk by diverting a portion of the Brahmaputra's waters in Tibet in the direction of the east and north, which will have an impact on India's North Eastern States. China has established diplomatic ties with all of India's neighbors, including Afghanistan and Myanmar. The Pakistani port of Gwadar, which is close to the Gulf of Aden, has also come under the hands of China. Two more nuclear reactors are being constructed by China in Pakistan at Chashma. As a result, India and China's ties are still far from ideal. Bangladesh is the only nation with whom India has been able to resolve border conflicts. From the perspective of future foreign policy, India's ties with its neighbors must be improved, although nothing can be done on this front.

- b) **Elements of Change:** The Indian foreign policy has seen some minor changes after the end of the Cold War. Israel and India now have a different connection. The partnership, which is focused on the import of defense technology, has been constantly expanding. However, as far as Palestine is concerned, Indian foreign policy has not altered. Israel was India's second-largest weapons supplier in the 2000s. India's foreign policy has changed significantly since the Look East Policy, which is now known as the Act East Policy. Throughout the Cold War, India's foreign policy paid little attention to the South East Asian area. India has now joined the Association of South-East Nations, the ASEAN Forum, and the East Asia Summit due to changes in foreign policy. Free trade with ASEAN nations was also made possible by a shift in foreign policy, and now, this commerce makes up a significant chunk of India's trade share when compared to China. India has actively engaged in these forums, as well as the extended ASEAN Maritime Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting. India and Japan have gotten along well. Japan has now committed to provide India with dual-purpose amphibious aircraft technology.

Additionally, India is aiming to forge long-term ties with Africa, a continent that is abundant in natural resources like oil and gas. Four summits between India and Africa have taken place since 2008 in an effort to forge friendly and enduring connections. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have both made investments thanks to the current administration. India is requesting their assistance in order to build its infrastructure and energy. This aspect of the foreign policy shift is seen to be advantageous for India's long-term goal of increasing foreign investment. The Modi administration is aware of how crucial increased foreign investment is to India's economic development. For India to become a market leader and maintain local and international stability, investment and development are crucial. India is attempting to obtain nuclear and defense technologies as part of its shift in foreign policy. In order to entice US businesses interested in investing in civil nuclear power production, India changed its civil nuclear liability statute.

India attempted to join the NSG, but this effort was rejected in the middle of 2016 due to opposition from China and other nations with significant non-proliferation ties. However, India is attempting to join the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Australia Group and was accepted into the Missile Technology Control Regime in June 2016. Regarding defense technology, India made the extraordinary decision to allow 100% foreign ownership of its defence companies and to open up foreign direct investment. As part of the Defence Trade and Technology Initiative with the US, India has also been attempting to gradually move towards acquiring cutting-edge US defence technologies and apparatus.

Another indicator of change in India's foreign policy is the country's involvement in a number of multilateral forums for both economic and security reasons. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization now includes India. India has also joined the New Development Bank, which is supported by the BRICS, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which is supported by China and has its headquarters in Shanghai. Additionally, it has been crucial to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. In order to transition from a growing medium power to a great power, India has also lobbied for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

- c) **Indo-US Relations:** From a long-term perspective, enhanced ties with the US represent one of the improvements in India's foreign policy. Because of collaboration between the US and Pakistan, a general tightening of US non-proliferation policy, and US support for Pakistan on the Kashmir problem, ties between India and the US had deteriorated by the early 1990s. However, due to the USSR's waning influence, India-US relations changed in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The US was not too concerned about Russia's relative fall or the fact that Russia was giving India armaments. After 9/11, ties between the US and Pakistan deteriorated. The US and India were able to reach a nuclear agreement, which in some ways allayed US concerns about India employing nuclear weapons. However, a shift in US foreign policy may have had some impact on India's foreign policy as well. Concerned about China's growing influence in Asia, the US has supported India in every way it can in an effort to restore the region's power balance. India's foreign policy of friendly relations with the US and other Asian nations has allowed India to benefit from a number of advantages, incentives, and chances that will continue to influence the country's possibilities for its future foreign policy.

With the changes in the Indian foreign policy, three broad scenarios can be visualized in terms of the future directions of the Indian foreign policy:

- d) **Dominance of the US:** If the US can balance China's growing might in Asia, it may achieve total supremacy. Russia's influence has been waning, and it may team up with China to counterbalance the US's growing clout. In this case, India is probably going to join forces with the US and its loose alliance of partners in Asia and abroad. However, there will be restrictions on alignment with the US in this instance as well. Despite slowing down, China will continue to expand considerably more quickly than both India and the West. Because China is a commercial partner for practically all other Asian nations, India is likewise unable to entirely isolate China. As far as India is concerned, China will continue to have control over the Indus and Brahmaputra River's headwaters and the capacity to divert the Brahmaputra's flows. Additionally, China will maintain its nuclear partnership with Pakistan. Additionally, China will continue to be India's commercial partner and prospective financing source. In the event of a border

conflict with China, the US is in no way able to defend India. In other words, India cannot completely collaborate with the US by offending China. Due to the fact that Russia is India's main supplier of military technology, India is unable to significantly alter its bilateral ties with Russia. Therefore, even if the US becomes the most dominant power, India will not be able to fully align with the US in terms of foreign policy in the future.

- e) **Maintenance of Status Quo:** The continuation of current trends is the second possible scenario for India's future foreign policy. India may now proceed with its re-alignment with the US and all of its Asian friends and partners. India may also adopt a continuous, if partial, move away from Russia in favor of the US when purchasing weapons and defence technologies. For increasing infusions of cash and technology, India may also maintain and strive to forge long-term connections with Africa, the Middle East, and other nations.
- f) **Increased Chinese Ascendancy:** China will pose a serious security and economic threat to not just India but also to all other nations of the globe if a situation where China surpasses the US develops. Additionally, this situation would improve ties between China and Russia, which would again pose a serious security risk to India. Several South Asian nations may lean towards China in such a situation. Of course, the alliance between China and Pakistan also makes it possible for India to come under assault from any of its border regions. India would only be able to resist China's growing dominance if it were to have much quicker growth than China.

We may conclude from the talks of the many aspects of foreign policy that it is the responsibility and right of the central government to formulate India's foreign policy. The central government must, however, take into account the suggestions and requests of all the states while forming its foreign policy due to India's federal and democratic structure. Since India's independence, its foreign policy has also changed significantly. These developments are mostly the result of India's evolving ties with China, Pakistan, and the United States of America. When determining the future course of Indian foreign policy, it is important to keep in mind that the country is a developing middle power that must preserve friendly ties with all of its neighbors as well as other nations across the globe.

DISCUSSION

There is a lot of intellectual and political interest in the connection between Indian federalism and foreign policy. The federal government of India, which consists of a central government and many state governments, is essential in determining and carrying out the nation's foreign policy choices. The division of authority between the federal government and the states is a crucial element of this relationship. India's capacity to collaborate successfully with the international community is impacted by the division of labour and power in these organizations. The formulation and implementation of foreign policy are primarily the province of the central government, which is given authority under the Indian Constitution. It negotiates treaties, represents India abroad, and keeps diplomatic contacts with foreign countries. The states are given certain autonomy under India's federal system, enabling them to take an active role in decisions that directly impact their interests. For India's foreign policy, this decentralized system of administration offers both possibilities and problems.

When deciding on its foreign posture, the central government must navigate and strike a balance between the various interests and preferences of the states. State governments' perspectives on foreign policy problems might be influenced by regional politics, different

economic interests, and cultural considerations, which could result in disagreement or contradictory strategies. On the other hand, the involvement of nations in the formulation of foreign policy may result in the contribution of important ideas and viewpoints. States often have specialized knowledge and experience in certain fields, like commerce or investment, which may help in the development of more thorough and nuanced foreign policy. Additionally, states have the ability to interact directly with foreign parties via bilateral alliances, economic pacts, or cultural exchanges, supporting the efforts of the central government to advance India's interests overseas. Federalism has an influence on foreign policy that goes beyond only internal dynamics. Additionally, it affects India's standing in the international arena. With its focus on variety and regional representation, India's federal system may be seen as a positive in building diplomatic ties. It enables India to project the image of a democratic society that cherishes the opinions and concerns of all of its members.

CONCLUSION

The interaction between Indian federalism and foreign policy, in conclusion, illustrates a complicated and nuanced connection that influences India's participation with the global community. The formulation and execution of foreign policy choices are greatly influenced by the division of power between the federal government and the states as well as the variety of regional interests and dynamics. Federalism brings difficulties in coordinating the many viewpoints and interests of the states, but it also offers opportunity to make use of specialized expertise and promote a pluralistic image on the international arena. To successfully advance India's interests and goals in the area of foreign policy, it is essential to comprehend and navigate this complex relationship. A balanced and coordinated strategy that takes both central and state factors into account would be crucial for a coherent and effective foreign policy agenda as India continues to navigate its federal structure and changing global dynamics.

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