An Investigation into How India's Foreign Policy is Beneficial for Our Country

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ABSTRACT

It would seem that Asia is experiencing a shift in the balance of power as a direct result of the fast rise of China and the relative weakening of the influence of the US. India has been looking for a strategy for adapting to this newly developed scenario. Since the 1990s, India has been steadily approaching the global importance ranks, notably since it started carrying out nuclear weapon tests in 1998 and continuing ahead. Since the beginning of the 21st century, India has been thought of as the nation that would come after China in its quest to achieve the rank of major power. India has a history of being secretive about its ambitions to become a great power; but, in 2015, the country announced its determination to pursue this goal. This transition is brought into light on by this article via the lens of India's policy orientation on the regional, local, and global levels as well as its importance in Indian context. The development of India has significant repercussions for the shifting of power in Asian countries.

Keywords- Indian Foreign Policy, Objective of India's Foreign Policy, Importance of Indian Foreign Policy.

I.   INTRODUCTION

Foreign policy of India strives to uphold world peace and security, fight imperialism, oppose apartheid, promote peaceful and political resolution of international conflicts, encourage mutually beneficial relations, stay neutral and uncommitted, and uphold the Third World's solidarity and unity. India's foreign policy has many significant goals, including the protection of its own interests, the promotion of international peace, disarmament, and the independence of Afro-Asian countries[1]. These goals are intended to be accomplished via a few guiding concepts, including NAM, Panchsheel, and others. The following list outlines the primary objectives guiding foreign policy of India:

1. Keeping foreign policy of India independent and territorial integrity intact:

A nation's primary concern is in maintaining its territorial integrity and safe guarding its borders from outside assault.

- After a significant amount of time and effort, India finally won its freedom from the yoke of a foreign power. As a consequence of this, it was only natural for her to place appropriate stress on the autonomy of foreign policy.
- India should be considered to be adopting the non-alignment policy in this scenario due to its efforts to promote Afro-Asian unity, commitment to the principles of non-interference in the domestic concerns of other nations, and ultimately, its acceptance of the non-alignment policy[2].
- To attract foreign direct investments, financial support, and technology transfers for initiatives and programs like "Skills India, Digital India, Clean India, Smart Cities, infrastructure development, Make in India, and others", India must engage with its international partners. Only then will the country be able to maintain its current pace of growth and keep up with the rest of the world. As a result, it should be emphasised that in recent years, foreign policy of India has taken an

approach that integrates political diplomacy with economic diplomacy.

• India has the biggest diaspora in the world, which consists of around 20 million NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin who live in different parts of the globe. Therefore, one of the primary goals is to engage them and gain the most advantages possible from their presence overseas, while simultaneously safeguarding their interests to the greatest level possible[3].

• To conclude, the following are the four primary focuses of foreign policy of India:

➢ In order to defend India from both conventional and non-traditional enemies;

➢ In order to the advantages of prosperity to trickle down to the poorest of the poor in India, it is imperative that an external environment that is favourable to India's inclusive growth be established and maintained.

➢ In order to ensure that India's viewpoints are heard on international stages and that India has the ability to sway global view on problems that have global implications, such as terrorism, disarmament, climate change, and the reform of institutions responsible for global power;

➢ to foster engagement with the Indian diaspora and ensure its safety.

2. Advancing the cause of worldwide peace and safety:

• India, a developing nation and newly independent state, correctly saw the link between global peace and progress.

• With the goal of fostering worldwide tranquilly, it places a strong focus on disarmament and follows a strategy that advises staying away from armed alliances.

II. BENEFITS OF FOREIGN POLICY FOR OUR COUNTRY

• India became a founding participant of the Non-aligned Movement when Jawaharlal Nehru was serving as the nation's prime minister. India is an active member in the process of bolstering the Movement and making it a voice that is effective in reflecting the collective ambitions and benefits of developing nations on such important matters like peace, development, and stability. In doing so, India has played an essential role in the success of the Movement. In 1983, the 7th NAM Summit was held in India's capital city of New Delhi. Presently, with the conclusion of the Cold War and as part of our country's new foreign policy, the emphasis has been placed on strengthening the Movement by redefining its goals to reflect the changing nature of the times[4].

• In addition, India is in the pioneering of the global group's fight against colonialism from its earliest days. In regard to fact, the actual event of India's independence served as a driving force in the process of eradicating the last traces of colonialism in other regions of the emerging world, most notably in Africa. "Additionally,

India was the first nation to bring up the issue of racial discrimination in South Africa at the United Nations in the year 1946. At the 8th NAM Summit, held in Harare in 1986, India was the driving force behind the establishment of the Action for Resistance against Invasion, Colonialism, and Apartheid Fund". This was done at India's insistence. The AFRICA Fund Committee, which was disbanded in 1993, was led by India, which held the position of Chairman.

• One distinctive aspect of Indian diplomacy has been the country's unwavering support for full and comprehensive disarmament, with nuclear disarmament being given the greatest priority among these three goals. In order to accomplish this goal, India has adopted a number of measures both within and outside of the United Nations. "An Action Plan for ushering in a Nuclear Weapons-Free and Non-Violent World Order was submitted by India at the "3rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1988". This session was dedicated to the topic of disarmament. India participated as a member of the 6-Nation 5-Continent Cooperative Initiative for helping demobilization in the year 1980s. This was done with the intention of bringing world attention to the unprecedented nuclear weapons race that was taking place at the time. India has consistently opposed agreements such as the "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)" on a foundation of principles. The country has declined to relinquish its nuclear alternatives until all countries, including those possessing nuclear weapons, agree to the concept of universal nuclear disarmament in a gradual process. India affirms its steadfast commitment to the goal of nuclear disarmament, to be accomplished within a specified timeframe.

• India, a founding participant of the UNs, has a long history of unwavering support for the organization's goals and ideals, and the country has been a substantial contributor to the UN's wide range of activities, including its efforts to maintain international peace and security. India has taken part in all of its peacekeeping missions, including those that took place in Korea, Egypt, and the Congo, as well as those that took place recently in "Somalia, Angola, and Rwanda". Additionally, India has been an active participant in the discussions that have taken place at the UN about the formulation of a more fair economic system on a global scale. In response to a request by India[5], the "United Nations General Assembly" passed a resolution in 1974 calling for the development of a "New International Economic Order (NIEO)". It was an energetic participant of the "Group of 77", which subsequently became the main participant "group of the G-15" countries, and it continues to be a member of both groups today. The overwhelming majority of votes cast in 2010 gave India the victory it needed to become a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the seventh time in its history. The first day of 2011 marked

the beginning of India's two-year term. India has strengthened her case for a permanent seat on the "United Nations Security Council" as a result of her large population, rapid economic expansion, prominent participation in global matters, and significant contributions to the organisation. Every single permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, with the exception of China, has publicly backed India's claim. At a variety of international fora, India has shown a commitment to playing a responsible role with regard to a number of important United Nations concerns, including the promotion of ecologically sustainable development, the defence of human rights, and the reduction of nuclear weapons.

- In order to advance India's critical national interests, the country has been successful in developing a system of interactions with all of the nations of the globe that are mutually beneficial. India's ties with all of her neighbours, with the exception of Pakistan, are becoming better. In 2005, India introduced its new Neighbourhood Policy, which placed a focus on increasing connectivity and people-to-people engagement with the nations that make up its neighbourhood. The Gujral Doctrine of 1998 posited that India ought not to prioritize reciprocity in the course of forging diplomatic relations with her neighboring nations. The normalisation process is also being carried out in the ties between China and Indochina.

- The growth of India's strategic connections with the US has been one of the most important factors contributing to the success of Indian policy in the post-1990 era. "The Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation agreement that was signed between the two nations in 2008 marks a watershed moment in the history of their bilateral ties". It brought an end to India's nuclear isolation in the world, which had lasted for 34 years, and implicitly recognised India like a nuclear power. "India has established a new structure for holding an annual summit conference with a number of the world's most influential partners, including China, Japan, Russia, ASEAN, and the European Union". Because of this, we are now able to have frequent conversations at a high level with these partners[6].

- Furthermore, India re-established its diplomatic ties with African nations through the "India-Africa Forum Summit, initially convened in 2008 and subsequently in 2011". Additionally, India has forged strong diplomatic ties with the countries comprising Central Asia. Given the plentiful availability of energy resources in the region, it may be in India's best interest to enhance its energy security.

- The advancement of regional cooperation across south Asia is one of India's most significant accomplishments in the realm of foreign policy. SAARC was established in the month of December 1985, and India has been an active member of the organisation since then. SAARC made the historic decision to create SAFTA, which came into force in the year 2006. This decision was made possible by the active participation of India. India took the initiative in establishing both the "I0R-ARC in March 1997 and the Bay of BIMSTEC in 1998" with the goal of bolstering regional collaboration in its immediate vicinity. The 'Look East Policy' that India has been pursuing recently has been meeting with a significant degree of success. In 1996, India was granted membership to the ASEAN Regional Forum. Subsequently, since 2005, India has been an active participant in the "East Asia Summit, which aims to establish an East Asia Community modeled after the European Community".

- India has appeared as a significant player in world matters. India is one of the founding members of the G-20, an international forum established in the year 1997 with the aim of managing the global financial system during the imminent world financial crisis. The Outreach group of the G-8, colloquially known as the club for affluent nations, has extended an invitation to India to join its ranks[7]. In addition to this, it is a member of IBSA, which is a trilateral organisation that was founded in 2003 and is comprised of 3 significant emerging nations from three different continents: "India, Brazil, and South Africa". In a similar manner, India has also become a member of the "BRICS group", which is comprised of "Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa". This organisation was established in 2008 and is recognised as the group of growing economies[8].

- For the past two decades or longer, India has incorporated economic diplomacy as a significant component of its comprehensive foreign policy approach. In response to globalisation, India made changes to its internal economy and institutional structure. The Investment Publicity Unit (IPU) was established in India in the year 1990 with the purpose of managing the fiscal and commercial operations of the country's foreign ministry as well as the dissemination of economic information. The economy is going to play a significant role in India's Look East Policy. In 2010, India concluded a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

India has also inked FTAs with the countries of "Singapore, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka" in an effort to increase its overall trade volume. The last 20 years have seen a significant increase in India's exports, which reached $70 trillion in 2011. Additionally, improvements have been made in terms of trade links with other nations. Despite their political disagreements, China overtook Japan as India's most important commercial partner in 2010. This trend continued in 2011. In addition, India has been successful in luring significant levels of Foreign Direct Investment in recent years.

India's engagement in the economies of other nations is a relatively recent development in its foreign policy. The development of South-South Cooperation has been one of the most significant parts of India's economic diplomacy over the last several decades[9-10]. Since its inception in 1964, the "Indian Economic and

Technical Cooperation (ITEC)" Programme has been successfully implemented in a large number of nations throughout Asia and Africa.

In addition, India provides developing nations with aid in the form of growth help, lines of credit, and trade concessions as a means of promoting South-South Cooperation. The human resources development project that India is doing has been met with favourable reception throughout Africa[11].

III. METHODOLOGY

In order to acquire an overall view of the study that has been done on the benefits of the foreign policy of India, researchers carried out a review of the literature based on the topic. A search was conducted in the reputed publication to locate articles that have been written on the foreign policy of India. Only journal papers were taken into account throughout the selection process in order to guarantee that the sources that were retrieved had an academic bent and were of a high quality. According to Ajiferuke, the collaboration score is a measurement of fractional efficiency, and a value that is close to 0 implies that the most of the articles were produced by a single author. This is shown by the fact that the number is close to 0.

In scientometrics, an approach known as a keyword a combination network is considered to be very useful since it provides a broad overview of the most relevant research topics in a certain field of study. The approach known as keyword co-occurrence network analysis is a method that separates an array of literature into a number of groups, each of which indicates a distinct research emphasis that is pertinent to that specific topic. It is comparable to the co-citation network hypothesis, which is founded on the connection and connectivity between references that have been referenced. The purpose of conducting a keyword co-occurrence network analysis is to give academics with aid in getting views into the topic area of published articles in order to characterize the general structure of the relevant scientific field. With the aid of this scientometric tool, researchers are able to conduct statistical studies of the keyword frequencies used in scholarly articles, which enables them to identify newly developing trends and shifts in the area of study. In light of this, researchers analyzed the key research gaps that have been noted in the literature about the foreign policy of India to determine how best to fill them.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Covid-19 epidemic, which first posed a threat to public health, eventually wreaked havoc on the economy. When India was already dealing with maritime tensions and border security difficulties with China and Pakistan, the pandemic rang the doorbell and woke everyone up. During the pandemic, wealthy countries took benefit from COVID-19 and reaffirmed their dominance over underdeveloped and under-developed nations in terms of vaccinations, ventilators, PPE kits, and other necessary pieces of medical equipment for covid patients. The epidemic resulted in a new normal, in which not only India but also countries all over the world were left undisturbed by the winds of geopolitical and geoeconomic storms[12-13], which in turn resulted in the emergence of new non-traditional dangers. Lately "Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs", discussed how the Covid-19 widespread has changed the dimensions of countries, shifting the focus from confidence and openness to knowledge and the decentralization of globalization. In terms of the association between India and the United States, there were also some shifts seen[14]. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when the United States was experiencing a terrible wave of the disease, India offered assistance by providing medical supplies and loosening limits on exports. Despite this, the United States was hesitant to provide assistance to India when it went through the similar period.

In the year 2022, while India and Afghanistan were focusing on earlier infrastructure as well as additional advances and India's future intentions to assist and prosper Afghanistan, both countries were not conscious of the reality that the moment is not far when these developmental problems as well as the advancements they have achieved so far will begin to be highjacked by a sudden political change[15]. It was no except the Taliban who gained control of Afghanistan's governmental system, and as a result, the whole situation was reversed. However, India did not put up any kind of opposition to the plan of action that the Taliban had devised. The risk that in the not too distant future, the Taliban, with the backing of Pakistan, may restart cross-border terrorism as well as insurgency in the J & K is one that one cannot deny or ignore[16-17]. Furthermore, Pakistan's close relationship with China, both of which are nuclear powers, may result in an imminent threat to security in addition to a diplomatic problem for India as it seeks to offset the classic and non-traditional challenges posed by its neighbors to the west and east. On the other hand, between 2019-2021, the world community rallied in favor of the farmer's demonstrations on the topic of the agricultural bill and the government's crackdown on demonstrators. At the same time, the violence in the J & K and the North- East, including assaults on minorities, became a bilateral problem. In the past, territory control and resource acquisition were the primary concerns of diplomacy[18]. However, in recent years, as a result of the rise of the digital age and other new technologies, a danger posed by geotechnology in relation to geopolitics and geoeconomics has evolved. In the modern world, the factors that determine a nation's power are increasingly based on the most recent technology rather than geography.

Additionally, in the year 2020, India saw the use of military troops along both sides of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as well as tragic skirmishes in the Galwan valley. Concerns have also been voiced over China's growing influence in the nations that are India's neighbors, which calls for India to respond in a decisive and strategic manner. The second significant and strategic challenge that India is facing is posed by China's Belt and Road plan, which India has chosen to boycott on the basis that the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) or Belt and Road initiative" intrudes onto contested territory in PoK that has been claimed by India[19]. This is the case because the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) or Belt and Road project" intrudes into disputed territory in PoK. As of now, the task for India is to make sure that Chinese forces return to the status quo with regard to April 2020, the date when the aggression at the LAC first started, and to keep a close check on the political and economic actions of the Chinese in our neighborhood.

V.   CONCLUSION

One of the most important developments that has had a considerable impact on the formation of Indiaan foreign policy is the creation of local parties in Indian politics. By using the political climate as it exists at the moment, they have been successful in their efforts to persuade the government into basing choices about foreign policy on restricted regional interests. The authority of the central government to direct the nation's foreign policy has been usurped, putting the country's safety in jeopardy. The fact that there is political disagreement in India on significant aspects of its foreign policy has been a cause of concern. Even while there are some formal institutions that are responsible for formulating policy, such as the Cabinet, the "Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defense", and other sorts of defence and intelligence organizations, the majority of decisions on foreign policy are taken on the spur of the instant.

Political parties are able to exploit the lack of consistency and cohesion in policy positions generally, which allows them to yield benefit of breaches in decision-making. According to a journal based in the United States, India has disregarded a global plea for an oil embargo to be placed on Iran, while on another topic, India has abstained from voting about Libya in the "United Nations Security Council". Those in the United States who argued for broader strategic linkages were left dissatisfied, while others have already begun to complain that the United States wastes important diplomatic capital on a partner that they cannot trust. Leaving aside the argument's validity for the moment, it is very essential that India moves from a reactive to an active posture in its decision-making, as this will provide legitimacy to the conclusions it reaches. Due to the fact that India is expected to make a relatively rapid ascent in

the global system, the nation will be confronted with a number of challenges. According to Rajamohan, if India were in a stronger position, the country would be compelled to take a side in key world conflicts and regional wars. The end result of this would be that India will ultimately form an alliance with one of the major nations. As a consequence of this, having a divided polity on issues pertaining to foreign policy will not help India establish itself as an important participant.

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