



## EMERGING TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY (2014–2024)

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### **Abstract**

The article will critically examine the latest trends in contemporary Indian foreign policy under the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji from 2014 to 2024. The nature of Indian foreign policy has shifted from non-alignment to multialignment. This decade has witnessed significant developments in the Indian foreign policy : (i) redefinition of strategic autonomy (ii) active engagement with contemporary multilateral institutions ( BRICS, SCO, EU, RIC, G-20), (iii) emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region with special reference to the QUAD - Quadrilateral Security dialogue ((iv) Effective economic diplomacy to attract Foreign Direct Investment ( FDI) and developing the technological capabilities (v) extension of soft – power diplomacy with special reference to the Vaccine Diplomacy( Vaccine Maitri) (vi)strategic defence cooperation with the Russia and the USA.(vii) digital diplomacy and diaspora outreach (viii) Artificial Intelligence ( AI) enabled technological cooperation (ix)dynamic India's Neighbourhood First Policy (x) Act East Policy (xii) privileged strategic cooperation with the Russia (xi) Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam & Vishwa Mitra Bharat (xii) modernization of Indian defence technology. Furthermore, the article will critically analyze the latest dynamics of the evolution of Indian foreign policy from non-alignment to multialignment. It has been reflected in the five pillars of the Indian foreign policy.: (i)Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata (cultural and civilizational linkages), (ii)Samman (dignity), (iii)Samriddhi (shared prosperity), (iv)Samvad (dialogue), (v)Samriddhi (shared prosperity). In this context, the proposed research article will critically examine the contemporary developments of Indian foreign policy from 2014 to 2024.

**Key Words: Multilateralism, Strategic Autonomy, BRICS, QUAD, Privileged Strategic Cooperation, Defence Cooperation, Economic Diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Enabled Technology.**

### **Introduction**

Indian foreign policy under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, Prime Minister of India from 2014 to 2024, has witnessed dynamic changes in the orientation, nature, and innovative diplomatic strategies. Prime Minister strongly advocated the concept of strategic autonomy and national interests while actively participating in the various multipolar institutions and major powers in the contemporary world order. The Prime Minister infused foreign policy with dynamic leadership and strategic clarity. Innovative and effective Indian foreign policy strategies, i.e., Act East Policy, Neighbourhood First Policy, multi alignment, active engagement with multipolar institutions, Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), India's active engagement in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) in the Indo – Pacific region, have redefined the nature of Indian foreign policy. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has emphasized the vibrant Indian diaspora, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, soft power, and vaccine diplomacy. These all developments led to the transition of Indian foreign policy from non -alignment to multialignment in the contemporary multipolar world order. Thus, India is playing a vital role in the contemporary world order while giving importance to the regional priorities in the South Asian region. The foundational roots of India's foreign policy have been traced back to the ancient civilisational values of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (i.e., the world as one family), dialogue and coexistence, and dialogue, while protecting the sovereignty and the national interests. India is pursuing the policy of cultural diplomacy and soft power through yoga, ayurveda,



vaccine diplomacy, and humanitarian assistance. India is high level importance to Skill India, Make in India, digital India, and Atma Nirbhar Bharat schemes.

The decade 2014–2024 marked a dynamic transformation in India’s foreign policy strategies. After assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has focused on a dynamic foreign policy, emphasizing economic diplomacy, upgraded strategic partnerships, and visible leadership in multilateral fora (ORF, 2024). This period has been shaped by significant global developments - heightened great-power competition, a global pandemic, supply-chain reorientation following COVID-19 and the Russia–Ukraine war, China’s expanding regional assertiveness, and the Israel–Palestine conflict. The resulting policy responses from New Delhi were pragmatic and multi-vector: India sought deeper security cooperation with democracies while retaining important ties with traditional partners, engaged more assertively in the Indo-Pacific, and expanded soft power tools such as vaccine diplomacy (MEA, 2023; ORF, 2024).

### **Methodology and Sources**

The research study is a qualitative synthesis of primary and secondary sources. The data available at the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Embassy of India, Moscow; Embassy of the Russian Federation, New Delhi and the Embassy of India, Washington DC and the official data available at the various websites of the Embassies of India located across the globe, and Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed by India and strategic powers, constitute the primary source of the study. The data available at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, New Delhi, the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, and the Swami Vivekananda Foundation, New Delhi; newspaper articles and books constitute secondary sources. Thus, the research article has critically analysed the following thematic issues: India’s active engagement with the QUAD; India’s diplomatic strategies to address the Galwan and Doklam crises; India’s dynamic leadership in the G-20; and India’s strategic defence cooperation with Russia and the USA.

### **Emerging Trends in Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy (2014 – 2024)**

#### **From Strategic Autonomy to Pragmatic Hedging**

Strategic autonomy has gained considerable importance in the post-1947 foreign policy framework, particularly from 2014 to 2024. The strategic autonomy has brought about dynamic changes in Indian foreign policy. India has established strong defence cooperation with Australia, the United States, and Japan. India has maintained its strategic autonomy in dealing with various contemporary global issues (Lou, 2024). Further, India is maintaining its strategic balance approach towards Moscow and Washington in the contemporary multipolar world order (Lou, 2024).

#### **Developments in the Defence Technology and Institutional Cooperation**

Tremendous changes have taken place in the domains of science & technology and defence cooperation. India has developed privileged strategic defence cooperation with Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin has given high-level priority to India in Russia's foreign policy framework. It has been witnessed in the India-Russia joint summits in New Delhi and Moscow, respectively, from 2014 to 2024. India and the USA have signed key defence pacts. The following agreements have been signed between India and the United States:

**Significant Defence Agreements Have Provided The Frame Work For Cooperation And Interaction In The Defence Sector:** “Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018); Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016);



Memorandum of Intent for Defence Innovation Cooperation (2018) Industrial Security Agreement (2019); and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020) (Embassy of India, Washington D.C, USA”.

Further, India and the USA have signed logistics agreements related to the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA). Both countries have conducted Malabar exercises, and INDUS-X has further strengthened the bilateral relations between India and the USA. Meanwhile, India has maintained strategic defence cooperation with Russia (Lou, 2024; IISS, 2022; Reuters, 2025).

### **Indo-Pacific Focus and the Rise of Minilateralism: Quad and Regional Architecture**

India is actively engaging with the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). New Delhi. QUAD has been playing a vital role in supply-chain resilience, maritime security, infrastructure development, science & technology, and coordinating security in the Indo-Pacific region (IISS, 2022). Since India is actively participating in the Malabar naval exercises, dialogues, summits, and meetings on supply chain initiatives related to defence cooperation, the development of semiconductor technology has significantly contributed to operational initiatives and coordination within the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (IISS, 2022; Lou, 2024).

### **India-China Relations: Competition, Crisis, and Management: Doklam, 2017; Galwan, 2020)**

India-China bilateral relations have been severely affected by the Doklam standoff (2017) and the Galwan clash (June 2020). These two episodes have led India to develop a strategic foreign policy framework to address various issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In this connection, India has strengthened its military preparedness, modernized its defence equipment, and developed its infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). India and China have extensively participated in military-level talks, confidence-building efforts, and negotiations. India and China have agreed to de-escalate the conflicts and restore minimal patrols by late 2024. Thus, India has adopted a very cautious and diplomatic approach to deal with China.

### **Economic Statecraft: Supply Chains, Investment, and Trade**

As part of Make India, Skill India, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat (self – reliance), India’s economic diplomacy focused on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), supply-chain reliance, and diversification of trade. High-level diversification occurred in the sectors of defence equipment, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals (PIB; Economist/ET analyses, 2024). India is very cautious with special reference to signing free trade agreements, initiatives for Indian firms to have easy access to markets, and developing economic statecraft in the era of liberalization, globalization, and privatization.

### **Soft Power and Normative Diplomacy: Vaccine Maitri and Beyond**

From 2021 to 2023, India’s Vaccine Maitri has become an important aspect of India’s global health diplomacy. As part of this scheme, India has exported millions of vaccines to neighbouring countries, South African countries, and East Asian countries. It has demonstrated India’s diplomatic influence in the Global South. These initiatives have brought a positive image for India in the pharmacy of the world, and India has also further strengthened its bilateral relations with the African and Asian countries. The Government of India has adopted a normative diplomacy approach to deal with the various issues, i.e., climate change and human rights issues. India adopted soft power diplomacy to further India’s cultural interests at the global level (ORF, 2024).



### Multilateral Leadership and Reformist Posture: G20 Presidency and Global Governance

India hosted a G20 summit in 2023 in New Delhi and showcased its leadership on various contemporary global issues and global economic governance. India strongly advocated for an inclusive global governance framework while developing bilateral relations across the globe. (PIB; ORF 2024).

### BRICS and South–South Cooperation

India has been playing a vital role in the various global multilateral institutions. India’s active engagement with the BRICS has facilitated India in strengthening bilateral relations with other countries. Further, India has strongly advocated multipolarity in global governance. New Delhi has been extending all kinds of support and coordination to BRICS to represent the voice of the Global South.

### Technology, Cyber, and Digital Diplomacy

Cyber issues, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have become central features of the Indian foreign policy. India has actively pursued the critical technologies in the sectors of space, research and development in the defence sector, and cyber security. The Government of India has designed various policies for artificial intelligence and cyber knowledge. Data governance cyber space has attained greater importance in digital diplomacy.

### Defence Modernization and Indigenous Capability Building

India has modernized the defence sector since it is facing strategic competition and border conflicts with Pakistan and China. India is producing important defence equipment as part of the Make in India initiative and developed bilateral relations with other countries. Reforms in the defence sector and technology transfers have strengthened the indigenous defence ecosystems and strategic autonomy in the capabilities (Lou, 2024). It has been reflected in the following table according to the database of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI), Sweden.

**Table1: Transfers Of Major Conventional Arms From India To All Countries From 2014 To 2024 SIPRI Trend-Indicator Values (Tivs) Are In Millions.**

“Recipient	Supplier	Year of order	Number ordered	Weapon designation	Weapon description	Number delivered	Year(s) of delivery	status	Comments	SIPRI TIV per unit	SIPRI TIV for total order	SIPRI TIV of delivered weapons
Myanmar	India	2022	1	Revathi	air-search radar	1	2023	New	For modernization of 1 Kyan Sit Thar frigate	7.5	7.5	7.5
Armenia	India	2023	15	Akash	SAM system	1	2024	New		16	240	16
Guyana	India	2023	2	Do-228	light transport aircraft	2	2024	New		2.2	4.4	4.4
Seychelles	India	2015	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2018	New	Aid	7	7	7
Seychelles	India	2015	1	EL/M-2022	maritime patrol aircraft radar	1	2018	New	For 1 Do-228 MP aircraft from India	2.5	2.5	2.5



Mauritius	India	2021	1	Do-228	light transport aircraft	1	2022	New	For coast guard; Do-228-201 version	2.2	2.2	2.2
Seychelles	India	2013	1	SDB Mk-5	patrol boat	1	2014	Second hand	Second-hand; aid	5.84	5.84	5.84
Suriname	India	2009	3	SA-316B Alouette-3	light helicopter	3	2015	New	\$15-30 m deal (financed by Indian credit); Chetak version	0.9	2.7	2.7
Mauritius	India	2014	2	Naidu	patrol boat	2	2016; 2017	New	USD21 m deal; for coast guard	18.85	37.7	37.7
Seychelles	India	2016	1	L&T Fast Interceptor	patrol boat	1	2016	New	Aid; for coast guard	7.5	7.5	7.5
Nepal	India	2014	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2014	New	Aid	4.5	4.5	4.5
Sri Lanka	India	2014	2	Samarth	patrol ship	2	2017; 2018	New	Sri Lankan designation Sayurula	37	74	74
Myanmar	India	2019	1	Project-877E	submarine	1	2020	Second hand but modernized	Second-hand but modernized before delivery; Myanmar se designation MinyeThaikhathu	145.2	145.2	145.2
Seychelles	India	2021	1	FPV-300	patrol boat	1	2021	New	Aid; Seychelles designation Zoroaster	19	19	19
Viet Nam	India	2023	1	Khukri	corvette	1	2023	Second hand	Second-hand; aid	30	30	30
Myanmar	India	2013	3	LW-04	air-search radar	3	2015; 2016	New	RAWL-02 Mk-2 version; for 2 Kyan Sittha frigates and 1 Tabinshwhti corvette produced in Myanmar	6	18	18
Myanmar	India	2011	1	LW-04	air-search radar	1	2016	New	RAWL-02 version; for Tabinshwhti corvette produced in Myanmar	6	6	6
Mozambique	India	2019	2	L&T Fast	patrol boat	2	2019	New	Aid	7.5	15	15



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Myanmar	India	2017	20	Shyena	anti- submarine torpedo	20	2019; 2020	New	Part of \$38 m deal	0.3	6	6
Afghanistan	India	2015	4	Mi- 24D/Mi -25	combat helicopter	4	2015; 2016	Second hand	Second- hand; aid; Mi-25 version	3.3	13.2	13.2
Maldives	India	2020	1	Do- 228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2020	Second hand	Second- hand; aid	2.8	2.8	2.8
Namibia	India	2009	2	SA- 316B Alouett e-3	light helicopter	2	2014	New	SA-316B Chetak version	0.9	1.8	1.8
Afghanistan	India	2012	3	SA- 315B Lama	light helicopter	3	2015	New	Cheetal version	0.75	2.25	2.25
Myanmar	India	2013	3	HMS-X	anti- submarine sonar	3	2015	New	For 1 Aung Zeya frigate from China and 2 Kyan Sit Thar frigates produced in Myanmar	5	15	15
Armenia	India	2023	24	Pinaka 214mm	multiple rocket launcher	6	2023	New	Pinaka Mk- 2 version	0.6	14.4	3.6
Mauritius	India	2021	1	Do-228	light transport aircraft	1	2021	Second hand	Second- hand; lease as aid; for coast guard; Do- 228-201 version	0.88	0.88	0.88
Maldives	India	2018	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2019	Second hand	Second- hand; probably aid	1.8	1.8	1.8
Maldives	India	2021	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2021	Second hand	Second- hand; probably aid	1.8	1.8	1.8
Bangladesh	India	2020	18	OFB E1 120mm	mortar	18	2020	Second hand	Probably second- hand	0.12	2.16	2.16
Armenia	India	2023	400	Akash- 1	SAM	25	2024	New	For Akash SAM systems	0.2	80	5
Mauritius	India	2021	1	Dhruv	helicopter	1	2022	Second hand	Probably second- hand; Dhruv Mk- 3 version; loan; for coast guard	1.8	1.8	1.8
Sri Lanka	India	2019	1	Do- 228MP	maritime patrol	1	2022	Second hand	Second- hand; 2-	2.8	2.8	2.8



					aircraft				year loan			
Mauritius	India	2014	1	Do-228MP	maritime patrol aircraft	1	2016	New		7	7	7
Armenia	India	2020	4	Swathi	artillery locating radar	4	2021	New	\$40 m deal	8	32	32
Mauritius	India	2011	1	Barracuda	patrol ship	1	2014	New	\$60 m deal; for coast guard	27.5	27.5	27.5"

Source: SIPRI Arms Transfers Database, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), <https://www.sipri.org/databases/armstransfers/sources-and-methods>.

### India as an Emerging Defence Exporter: Patterns and Implications of Conventional Arms Transfers

The above table on transfers of major conventional arms from India to foreign countries depicts that a significant transition has taken place from arms importer to arms exporter. India is exporting the defence equipment to the South Asian, African countries, South East Asian countries, Central Asian countries, parts of the Latin American countries, and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It has reflected the objectives of Modi’s doctrine of Indian foreign policy (SIPRI, 2024; Jaishankar, 2020).

### Strategic Geography of Indian Defence Exports

The above table of arms transfers to countries illustrates that India’s arms exports to the Indian Ocean Region, Southeast Asia, and South Asia is constituting towards the majority of the recipients, including Maldives, Seychelles, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. India’s strategic geography of defence exports is aligning with India’s Neighbourhood First Policy and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) doctrine, which has focused on capacity building, regional stability, and maritime security (Pant, 2019). India is acting as a net security provider by transferring the patrol boats, helicopters (Dhruv), and radar systems to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) states. It will increase India’s influence in the near abroad, and it will counter the extra - regional powers, i.e., China (Mohan, 2017).

### Defence Exports as Instruments of Strategic Partnership

India’s arms exports will be serving as important tools of strategic partnership with special reference to Vietnam, Myanmar, and Armenia. Exports of Swathi weapon-locating radars, Akash surface-to-air missile systems, and Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers to Armenia have highlighted a significant step in Indian arms exports. This supplied defence equipment has showcased the advanced defence technology, and technologically complex weaponry has indicated the increasing confidence in India’s defence exports (SIPRI, 2024). This trend has reflected the principles of neoclassical realism, leadership preferences, and domestic industrial technological capabilities will lead to the changes in the regional power dynamics (Rose, 1998). India’s arms exports to Armenia have demonstrated India’s entry into geopolitical theatres beyond India’s immediate neighbourhood.

### Aid, Loans, and Soft Balancing through Defence Cooperation

India is exporting significant arms equipment, i.e., patrol vessels, interceptor boats, and helicopters, to the Maldives, Mozambique, Nepal, Namibia, Afghanistan, and Seychelles. These arms exports have been labelled as loans, second – hand transfers, and aid loans. These exports are constituting towards hard security assistance with soft power diplomacy and showcasing India’s image as a responsible



country in South Asia (Nye, 2004). As per the constructivist perspective, these arms exports to South Asia, South East Asian countries, and Armenia contribute towards norm building and depict India a non-coercive power and a developed country, and different from traditional arms exports. Thus, these exports are showcasing India's image in the contemporary world order (Wendt, 1999; Narlikar, 2023).

### **Maritime Security and the Indo-Pacific Dimension**

India's arms export items are key aspects of maritime security includes coastal surveillance radars, patrol ships, solar systems, maritime patrol aircraft, and patrol boats. These maritime items are being exported to Mauritius, the Maldives, Vietnam, Seychelles, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka. It has indicated that India is giving importance to maritime security in the Indo – Pacific region. These all developments are aligning with the SAGAR doctrine, freedom of navigation, Indo- Pacific vision, and cooperative maritime security. It has represented the mix of liberal institutionalism and defensive realism. India wants stability through security cooperation and power projection (Keohane & Nye, 2012).

### **Defence Industrial Policy and Atmanirbhar Bharat**

As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme, India is exporting a diversity of weapons, i.e., artillery systems (Pinaka), radars (Revathi, Swathi), naval platforms, and aircraft, and missiles (Akash), which has demonstrated the significance of India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem. India would like to minimize arms imports and would like to increase arms exports to other countries. It is one of the important aspects of strategic autonomy (Government of India, 2020). Finally, India's arms exports will increase India's image in the South Asia and will also develop military – to – military relationships. Liberal – realists have also analysed that economic capabilities will play a vital role in the strategic influence of India in the South Asian subcontinent.

### **India's Arms Transfers and Strategic Autonomy**

India is maintaining its strategic autonomy while exporting defence equipment. India is supplying weapons to countries without imposing any sanctions or ideological conditionality. India has avoided bloc politics while developing its relations with the countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, IOAR, and Latin America. (Jaishankar, 2020).

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data on India's arms export to other global countries has revealed the significance of India's modern defence technology and Indigenous defence technology. Arms exports have emerged as key aspects of diplomacy, strategic signalling, and regional security provision. India's arms export has been aligning with the SAGAR doctrine, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Neighbourhood First Policy, and Indo-Pacific strategy. India's arms transfer approach is the integration of realism, liberalism, and constructivism. Since India is exporting more arms, it will play a vital role in shaping India's global strategic identity.

### **Diaspora Engagement and Public Diplomacy**

The Indian diaspora has emerged as one of the important aspects of the global outreach of contemporary Indian foreign policy. Indian diaspora has been playing a vital role in the economic network & cultural ties, communication networks, showcasing India's image at the global level, and playing a vital role in the various multilateral institutions.

### **Emerging Trends in the Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy (2014–2024)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has assumed the office of the Prime Minister in May 2014. Dynamic changes have taken place in contemporary Indian foreign policy from 2014 to 2024. It has been



witnessed by the transition from post-Cold War diplomacy to active engagement with various global multilateral institutions. Scholars have defined contemporary foreign policy as a distinctive foreign policy doctrine, and it has been characterized by multi alignment, security priorities, and strategic autonomy Singh, 2025).

Many global developments have shaped the nature of Indian foreign policy, i.e., increasing security challenges, the emergence of regional security frameworks in the Indo- Pacific region, and competition among global powers. All these developments have led India to design innovative diplomatic strategies like the Act East Policy towards South East Asian countries, the Neighbourhood First Policy towards South Asian countries, strategic partnerships with Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Israel. India has been playing a pivotal role in the various global multilateral institutions, i.e., BRICS, G20, Raisina Dialogue, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

### **Modi's Doctrine of Indian Foreign Policy:**

After a long time, a political party has come out with an innovative resolution on Indian foreign policy that has not only restructured the vision of India's aspirations beyond its aspirations, but also required a greater role for the n civilizational state in the contemporary new world order. Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) has passed a resolution in the national executive meeting at Bengaluru in 2015. Members of the executive meeting have discussed India's rise as a respected world power and focused on the reinvention of India's cultural and civilizational links.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has announced the concept of Panchamrit as part of the Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy. It was introduced in 2015 with five elements: Suraksha (security), Samman (dignity), Samriddhi (shared prosperity), Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata (cultural and civilisational links), and Suraksha (security). This shift has reflected an assertive and proactive foreign policy, increasing India's image as Vishwaguru and Vishwamitra Bharat in the contemporary world.

Further, members have advocated the concept of "Panchamrit", a new foreign policy resolution in the form of the five pillars of Indian foreign policy. The following five principles of Indian foreign policy are the salient features of Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy.

1. "Samman – dignity and honour.
2. Samvad – greater engagement and dialogue.
3. Samriddhi – shared prosperity.
4. Suraksha – regional and global security.
5. Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata – cultural and civilizational linkages" (Dr. Anirban Ganguly 2015, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Research Foundation, 2015),

The above mentioned are the five themes – "Panchamrit" –are the important features of Indian foreign policy. Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy has immensely contributed to the global aspirations of India. India has been playing a significant role in the multipolar institutions in the contemporary world order. India symbolizes its global aspirations and Indian traditions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's global outreach framework and External Affairs Minister Srimati Sushma Swaraj's strategic outreach programmes have played a vital role in the dialogue and greater engagement while developing the shared prosperity with reference to the SAARC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach towards the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Asia - Pacific has



brought changes in India's global approach and regional security. India has played a vital role in disseminating information about the significance of the Indian civilization.

The Government of India started India's 'Look East' policy in the 1990s. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Act East Policy under the framework of Panchamrit, which has given high-level importance to the South East and East Asia. South East Asian countries are significant in developing trade, security, economic interests, maritime cooperation, and investment. Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata (cultural linkages) and Samriddhi (shared property) are vital aspects of the Panchamrit, which match India's initiatives with ASEAN countries to develop bilateral relations. The Indo-Pacific region has become an essential strategic theatre in the contemporary global world. India's initiatives towards 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' (SAGAR) have reflected its commitment to the open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The principle of Suraksha (security) is important here. India would like to collaborate with the regional powers to address various issues, i.e., counter-terrorism and maritime security.

West Asia has gained strategic momentum in India's foreign policy due to the presence of the largest Indian diaspora, trade, and energy security. The region's strategic significance led India to adopt a balanced approach. The Panchamrit has emphasised on emphasis on the Samriddhi (shared property), Samvad (dialogue), and guiding India's engagements with the West Asia and further promoting regional stability and mutual interests. Strategic location and the economic potential of the African countries have attained significance in the realm of Indian foreign policy. South- South cooperation, historical ties, and development partnerships have been playing a vital role in India - Africa relations. Samman (Dignity) and Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata (Cultural linkages and correlating with the foreign policy objectives of India to develop bilateral relations with the African countries.

**“Table2: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Foreign Countries from 2014 to 2025:**

Sl. No	Name of the Country	Duration of the Visit
1	Bhutan	Jun 15, 2014 - Jun 16, 2014
2	Brazil for BRICS Summit	Jul 13, 2014 - Jul 17, 2014
3	Nepal	Aug 03, 2014 - Aug 04, 2014
4	Japan	Aug 30, 2014 - Sep 03, 2014
5	PM's visit to United States of America	Sep 26, 2014 - Sep 30, 2014
6	PM's visit to Myanmar, Australia and Fiji	Nov 11, 2014 - Nov 19, 2014
7	PM's visit to Nepal	Nov 25, 2014 - Nov 27, 2014
8	three Nation tour of Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka	Mar 10, 2015 - Mar 14, 2015
9	Singapore	Mar 29, 2015 - Mar 29, 2015
10	three Nation tour of France, Germany and Canada	Apr 10, 2015 - Apr 18, 2015
11	China, Mongolia and South Korea	May 14, 2015 - May 19, 2015
12	Bangladesh	Jun 06, 2015 - Jun 07, 2015
13	visit to five Central Asian Nations and Russia	Jul 06, 2015 - Jul 13, 2015
14	United Arab Emirates	Aug 16, 2015 - Aug 17, 2015
15	visit to Ireland and United States of America	Sep 23, 2015 - Sep 29, 2015
16	visit to United Kingdom (UK) and Turkey	Nov 12, 2015 - Nov 16, 2015
17	visit to Malaysia and Singapore	Nov 21, 2015 - Nov 24, 2015



18	visit to France	Nov 29, 2015 - Nov 30, 2015
19	Russia	Dec 23, 2015 - Dec 24, 2015
20	visit to Belgium, USA and Saudi Arabia	(Mar 30, 2016 - Apr 03, 2016
21	Iran	May 22, 2016 - May 23, 2016
22	visit to Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, USA and Mexico	Jun 04, 2016 - Jun 08, 2016
23	Uzbekistan	Jun 23, 2016 - Jun 24, 2016
24	visit to Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania & Kenya	Jul 07, 2016 - Jul 11, 2016
25	visit to Vietnam & China	Sep 02, 2016 - Sep 05, 2016
26	Laos	Sep 07, 2016 - Sep 08, 2016
27	Japan	Nov 11, 2016 - Nov 12, 2016
28	Sri Lanka	May 11, 2017 - May 12, 2017
30	Germany, Spain, Russia & France	May 29, 2017 - Jun 03, 2017
31	Kazakhstan	Jun 08, 2017 - Jun 09, 2017
32	visit to Portugal, USA, and Netherlands	Jun 24, 2017 - Jun 27, 2017
33	visit to Israel and Germany	Jul 04, 2017 - Jul 08, 2017
34	visit to China and Myanmar	Sep 03, 2017 - Sep 07, 2017
35	Philippines	Nov 12, 2017 - Nov 14, 2017
36	Davos (Switzerland)	Jan 22, 2018 - Jan 23, 2018
37	visit to Jordan, Palestine, UAE & Oman	(Feb 09, 2018 - Feb 12, 2018 )
38	visit to Sweden, UK and Germany	Apr 16, 2018 - Apr 20, 2018
39	China	Apr 26, 2018 - Apr 28, 2018
40	Nepal	May 11, 2018 - May 12, 2018
41	Russia	May 21, 2018 - May 22, 2018
42	visit to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore	May 29, 2018 - Jun 02, 2018
43	China	(Jun 09, 2018 - Jun 10, 2018
44	visit to Rwanda, Uganda & South Africa	Jul 23, 2018 - Jul 28, 2018
45	Nepal	(Aug 30, 2018 - Aug 31, 2018
46	Japan	Oct 27, 2018 - Oct 30, 2018
47	Singapore	Nov 13, 2018 - Nov 15, 2018
48	Maldives	Nov 17, 2018 - Nov 17, 2018
49	Argentina	Nov 28, 2018 - Dec 03, 2018
50	South Korea	Feb 21, 2019 - Feb 22, 2019)
51	visit to Maldives & Sri Lanka (Jun 08, 2019 - Jun 09, 2019 )	Jun 08, 2019 - Jun 09, 2019
52	kyrgyzstan (Jun 13, 2019 - Jun 14, 2019 )	Jun 13, 2019 - Jun 14, 2019
53	Japan	Jun 27, 2019 - Jun 29, 2019
54	Bhutan	Aug 17, 2019 - Aug 18, 2019
55	visit to France, UAE & Bahrain	Aug 22, 2019 - Aug 27, 2019
56	Russia	Sep 04, 2019 - Sep 05, 2019
57	USA	Sep 21, 2019 - Sep 28, 2019
58	Saudi Arabia	Oct 28, 2019 - Oct 29, 2019



59	Thailand	Nov 02, 2019 - Nov 04, 2019
60	Brazil	Nov 13, 2019 - Nov 15, 2019
61	Bangladesh	Mar 26, 2021 - Mar 27, 2021
62	USA	Sep 22, 2021 - Sep 25, 2021
63	visit to Italy & Scotland	Oct 29, 2021 - Nov 02, 2021
64	visit to Germany, Denmark & France	May 02, 2022 - May 05, 2022
65	Nepal	May 16, 2022 - May 16, 2022
66	Japan	May 23, 2022 - May 24, 2022
67	visit to Germany & UAE	Jun 26, 2022 - Jun 28, 2022
68	visit to Samarkand, Uzbekistan	Sep 15, 2022 - Sep 16, 2022
69	Japan	Sep 27, 2022 - Sep 27, 2022
70	Indonesia	Nov 14, 2022 - Nov 16, 2022
71	visit to Japan, Papua New Guinea & Australia	May 19, 2023 - May 25, 2023
72	visit to USA & Egypt	Jun 20, 2023 - Jun 25, 2023
73	visit to France & UAE	Jul 13, 2023 - Jul 15, 2023
74	visit to South Africa & Greece	Aug 22, 2023 - Aug 26, 2023
75	Indonesia	Sep 06, 2023 - Sep 07, 2023
76	Dubai	Nov 30, 2023 - Dec 01, 2023
77	visit to UAE & Qatar	Feb 13, 2024 - Feb 15, 2024
78	Bhutan	Mar 22, 2024 - Mar 23, 2024
79	Italy	Jun 13, 2024 - Jun 14, 2024
80	visit to Russia & Austria	Jul 08, 2024 - Jul 10, 2024
81	visit to Poland & Ukraine	Aug 21, 2024 - Aug 23, 2024
82	visit to Brunei & Singapore	Sep 03, 2024 - Sep 05, 2024
83	visit to USA	Sep 21, 2024 - Sep 24, 2024
84	Laos	Oct 10, 2024 - Oct 11, 2024
85	visit to Russia	Oct 22, 2024 - Oct 23, 2024
86	visit to Nigeria, Brazil & Guyana	Nov 16, 2024 - Nov 22, 2024
87	Kuwait	Dec 21, 2024 - Dec 22, 2024
88	visit to France & USA	Feb 10, 2025 - Feb 14, 2025
89	Mauritius	Mar 11, 2025 - Mar 12, 2025
90	visit to Thailand & Sri Lanka	Apr 03, 2025 - Apr 06, 2025
91	visit to Saudi Arabia	Apr 22, 2025 - Apr 22, 2025
92	visit to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia	Jun 15, 2025 - Jun 19, 2025
93	visit to Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil and Namibia	Jul 02, 2025 - Jul 09, 2025
94	visit to United Kingdom & Maldives	Jul 23, 2025 - Jul 26, 2025"

Source: Office of the Prime Minister of India (2025), PMINDIA Web Portal, Website: [https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/pm-visits/?visittype=international\\_visit](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/pm-visits/?visittype=international_visit),

### **Analysis of Foreign Visits of the Prime Minister of India from 2014 to 2025:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Foreign Visits (2014–2025): Thematic Patterns, Policy Linkages, and Theoretical Interpretations



The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has extensively travelled from 2014 to 2025, and dynamic changes have taken place in Indian foreign policy. It has been witnessed that the Prime Minister has actively engaged with various global leaders and signed important pacts related to defence, energy, economy, trade, and cultural aspects. Foreign visits of the Prime Minister have immensely contributed to the innovative and strategic foreign policies, i.e., Act East Policy, *Neighbourhood First Policy*, and Act East Policy. These developments have become important aspects of the doctrine of strategic autonomy (Jaishankar, 2020; Mohan, 2015).

### **Neighbourhood First Policy and Regional Stabilisation**

The Prime Minister has continuously visited the South Asian countries, i.e., Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka – It has explained the significance of the Neighbourhood First Policy. After assuming the Office of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji first visited Bhutan in 2014. It has highlighted India's foreign policy priorities in the region, countering strategic encirclement and developing bilateral relations (Pant, 2019). Frequent visits to Bangladesh and Nepal have brought out dynamic changes in the orientation of Indian foreign policy towards Bangladesh and Nepal and played a vital role in the sectors of the energy sector, border management, and addressing connectivity issues. This approach aligns with the theory of defensive realists, where India would like to ensure stability in the neighbourhood to stop the external intervention of China in the region. Active engagement with the regional powers has become one of the important aspect the diplomatic strategies of India. (Waltz, 1979; Mohan, 2017).

### **Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific Strategy**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has visited numerous times to the Southeast Asian countries and East Asia, particularly Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Vietnam, South Korea, and Japan. It has witnessed the significance of the Act East Policy under the regime of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The purview and scope of India's Act East Policy has covered not only cultural exchanges and trade but also defence cooperation and maritime security. It has contributed to the strategic balancing in the Indo- Pacific region (Rajagopalan, 2020).

India has given high-level priority to Japan. India and Japan have signed important agreements related to trade, energy, and defence cooperation. Further, significant developments have taken place in the diversification of the supply chain system and infrastructural development. Both India and Japan have ensured rule based international order. India's Indo-Pacific engagement has reflected the neoclassical realism (Rose, 1998; Pant & Passi, 2021).

### **Strategic Partnerships and Multi-Alignment**

The Prime Minister has frequently visited Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France as part of India's multialignment foreign policy framework. It is one of the salient features of Modi's Doctrine of Indian foreign policy. The nature of bilateral relations between India and Russia has been transformed from a strategic partnership to a privileged strategic partnership. Defence cooperation is the cornerstone of India - Russia strategic partnership. India and the USA have signed important agreements related to defence, energy, the IT sector, and cyber technology. India and Russia have further strengthened ties in the sectors of energy and defence (Stuenkel, 2022). India and France have signed important pacts related to the Rafael Aircraft. It has strengthened space and defence cooperation between India and France. Thus, all developments have contributed to the transition of Indian foreign policy from the Cold War era non- alignment to the multialignment and strategic autonomy (Hall, 2019; Jaishankar, 2020).



### **Multilateralism and Global Governance Aspirations**

The detailed list of foreign policy visits has illustrated that India has been actively engaging with the various multilateral platforms, i.e., QUAD, BRICS, SCO, and G20. All these visits are linked to China, Brazil, Central Asia, and Russia. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's travel diplomacy has indicated that India would like to bring changes in the normative outlook of global diplomacy and global governance (Ikenberry, 2018). These developments align with the framework of liberal institutionalism. Global institutions have played a vital role in the Global South, such as the Security Council of the United Nations (Keohane & Nye, 2012).

### **Global South Outreach and South–South Cooperation**

The Indian Prime Minister has extensively travelled to Russia, the United States, France, Latin America, the Gulf region, and Central Asia. It has contributed to more developments in the South – South cooperation. Frequent visits to global countries have indicated that India will be playing a pivotal role in the contemporary world order. These bilateral visits have strengthened India's bilateral relations with global countries and strengthened cooperation in defence, trade, economy, energy, science & technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) (Sachdeva, 2016). This framework aligns with constructivist theory, which explains that normative commitments will shape the foreign policy behaviour (Wendt, 1999; Narlikar, 2023).

### **Diaspora Diplomacy and Soft Power**

The Prime Minister has given high-level importance to India diaspora in the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Mauritius, Australia, and Canada. It has highlighted the significance of the diplomacy of the Indian diaspora; the Global Indian diaspora and cultural programmes have made the Indian diaspora stakeholders in the inclusive growth of India. Further, it has strengthened the global transnational networks. It has been explained through soft power theory, where culture and values have become important aspects of national interests. (Nye, 2004). Modi's personalised diplomacy and foreign policy orientations have changed the outlook of the Indian diaspora at the global level.

### **The Modi Doctrine in Practice**

The pattern of foreign visits of Prime Minister Modi from 2014 to 2024 has depicted that dynamic changes have taken place like Indian foreign policy. The Prime Minister has actively participated in various global multilateral institutions. These bilateral visits have also immensely contributed to the objectives of Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy. Salient features of Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy are strategic autonomy, multialignment, Act East Policy, Connect Central Asia, Link West Asia, active engagement with multipolar institutions, i.e., BRICS, SCO, ASEAN, EU, RIC, G-20; Indo – Pacific engagement with special reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, dynamic leadership in the Global South. Thus, contemporary Indian foreign policy is an amalgamation of liberalism, constructivism, and realism, highlighting the role of India in the increasing global order.

### **Multilateral and Global Institutions Organizations: United Nations, World Trade Organization, BRICS, G20, and the Non-Aligned Movement.**

India has been effectively participating in the various multilateral organisations. It indicates that India is playing a vital role in the development of global norms and the strategy to improve global governance. The dynamic shift in Indian foreign policy from non–alignment to Multialignment. India has focused on the Samvad (dialogue) and Samriddhi (shared prosperity). India has been vital role in addressing various global challenges and sustainable development. Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign



policy has immensely contributed to the multialignment, active engagement with the various multipolar institutions, and strategic autonomy. India has been actively engaging with the global powers to further India's national interests. It has immensely contributed to the transition of Indian foreign policy from non-alignment to multialignment. India is balancing its foreign policy strategy towards major powers, i.e. USA, Russia, the UK, and France, while maintaining its strategic autonomy (Rahim, Abbas & Wahyudi, 2024). There is a correlation between security and economic diplomacy in Modi's doctrine of Indian foreign policy. It has focused on investment, infrastructure, and trade, and these are important aspects of India's global engagement. Indian foreign policy has contributed to the development of the Indian economy as well as national security.

### **Strategic Autonomy and Multi-Alignment**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has maintained strategic autonomy in the Indian foreign policy while signing the defence pacts, comprehensive strategic partnership agreements based on mutual interest rather than formal alliances. In recent times, India has strengthened its defence cooperation with the United States of America (USA) but simultaneously continued its strategic defence cooperation with Russia. Thus, India is balancing its foreign policy in the contemporary global world. It has facilitated India to further its national interests and maximize opportunities at the global level without compromising the sovereign decision-making in the various global institutions (Rahim et al., 2024). Strategic autonomy has immensely contributed to India's diplomatic flexibility and managing a strategic balance approach towards the major powers.

### **Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power**

Cultural diplomacy and soft power are other important aspects of Modi's foreign policy. Great initiatives like the International Day of Yoga and active engagement with the Indian diaspora have helped India to showcase its image at the global level. Cultural diplomacy and soft power have played a vital role in developing trade, defence, economic, and cultural relations with the East Asian countries.

### **Conclusion**

Indian foreign policy has undergone dynamic changes from 2014 to 2024. India has been playing a vital role in the contemporary world order. The New World order has been characterized by geopolitical competition and global conflicts, i.e. Russia - Ukraine War, Israel – Palestine Conflict. India is furthering its national interest and strategic autonomy while engaging with the global world. India is playing a vital role in global governance and decision-making in the international institutions. Assertive multilateralism has been a defining feature of the contemporary Indian foreign policy. India has been actively engaging with various multilateral institutions: Brazil, Russia, India, South Africa (BRICS), G-20, Russia - India- China trilateral summit, European Union (EU), Eurasian Economic Forum, G- 20, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). India is contributing to sustainable development, global governance, digital governance, global climate action policies, and counter terrorism initiatives.

Indian foreign policy under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has strongly demonstrated the high-level diversification of the strategic partnerships and foreign visits. India established strategic bilateral relations with Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Strategic partnerships with Russia, the European Union, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (USA) have further strengthened defence cooperation, economic linkages, science & technological cooperation, latest innovative development, and cooperation in the Artificial



Intelligence domain. Meanwhile, India and Russia have established a privileged strategic partnership with Russia. As part of the Connect Central Asia policy, India established good ties with the Central Asian states. Active engagement with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Gulf Countries has reflected the pursuit of South - South solidarity, energy security, cultural diplomacy, soft power, geo-economic connectivity, This period also witnessed a dynamic change in the reorientation of economic diplomacy with great initiatives, i.e., Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, and Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliance). India's investment and trade strategies have brought changes in the supply chains and geopolitical economy. India's Neighbourhood First Policy has immensely contributed to the development of the bilateral relations with the South Asian countries. It has ensured development cooperation, infrastructural developments, and economic cooperation in South Asia. India has dealt with various challenges as part of the Neighbourhood First Policy. India's defence cooperation and defence diplomacy have been developed through various ways, i.e., joint military exercises, maritime cooperation, and technology partnerships, particularly in the Indian Ocean region and Indo – Pacific region. It has reflected the commitment to maritime security.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has given high-level importance to cultural diplomacy and soft power to further India's national interests and strategic autonomy. It has contributed to the diaspora networks, showcasing India's culture, traditions, and civilizations. Global diaspora networks, observing International Day of Yoga, have further increased India's image and goodwill in the contemporary world order. Latest developments in the contemporary Indian foreign policy have contributed to the multifaceted, dynamic, innovative foreign policy in the contemporary world order. Strategic bilateral relations reflecting both global and regional aspirations. Contemporary Indian Foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 has been characterized by adaptive innovation and strategic continuity. Thus, India has been playing a vital role in the contemporary multipolar world order.

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