

# India's Foreign Policy: Salient Features & Current Priorities

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# Core Objectives of India's Foreign Policy

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1. To secure our country's national interests and national interests has over time acquired multiple dimensions. At present it includes:
2. Defence of India's borders and thus territorial integrity
3. Combating terrorism, money-laundering, besides fighting drugs and human trafficking.
4. Cyber security, food security and energy security
5. Creation of an external environment which is conducive for the overall and more importantly an inclusive development of our country.

# Fundamental Principles and salient Features of India's Foreign Policy

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1. Panchsheel (five principles of peaceful co-existence);
2. India is opposed to Export of Ideologies and Change of Regimes
3. India does not endorse Unilateral Sanctions
4. Interference : NO ; Intervention : YES
5. Constructive engagement over aggression
6. Strategic Autonomy: Partnerships-YES, Alliances: NO
7. Global consensus on issues of global dimensions
8. National consensus and regional aspirations
9. Multilateralism, both at the global level but also at the regional, sub-regional, and mini-lateral levels

# Current priorities include...

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**National consensus and Regional aspirations;**

**Political diplomacy** (to promote cooperation and collaboration and minimise irritants in mutual relations);

**Economic diplomacy** (to increase the volume of bilateral trade in commodities and services, reduce trade imbalances, and enhance foreign direct investments into country);

**Cultural diplomacy** (is useful wherever there is a history of religious and cultural links, presence of substantial Indian Diaspora)

**Neighbourhood First**(BIMSTEC, SAARC, Look East to Act East policy)

# INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR CONDUCT OF DIPLOMACY

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**High Level Contacts** (bilateral Visits at the level of Heads of State and Heads of Government or their meetings on the side-lines of multilateral conferences such UNGA)

**Foreign Office Consultations** (consultations are held periodically between the Senior Officials of the two countries);

**Inter-Governmental Commissions** (comprised of representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned and relevant nodal Ministries);

# Other Geographies of interest to India


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Among the other regions of the world that are of interest to India, other than its neighbours, are the following:

1. South Asia: Here, we look at India's relations with its immediate neighbours in the bilateral context as well as the challenges and prospects for regional cooperation.
2. Indo-Pacific: Here, we examine the complexities of political, strategic and economic developments in the Indo-Pacific region, while also examining the impact and effectiveness of India's Act East Policy.
3. Africa: Here, we analyse the key features of our country's engagement with African countries in light of the ten guiding principles delineated by PM Modi and assess as to what all has been achieved to realize the potential of India-Africa partnership.

# Future Challenges

From the foreign policy perspective, India faces today - and will continue to face in the foreseeable future - a mix of challenges. Some of these are:

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- a) Threats to national security: They come from the non-traditional sources such as terrorism and radicalization; from traditional sources such as China and Pakistan; and from new sources such as deficit in cyber security.
  - b) Economic: Adverse economic trends in the world have negative impact on our ability to grow. Economic strength is the biggest source of national security. Our aim has to be to attain 8% GDP growth rate for the next three decades. How this can be done has to be the national priority.
  - c) Fourth Industrial Revolution, particularly its effect on the future of work.
  - d) Energy and Climate Change
  - e) Blue Economy
  - f) Reform in Global Governance
  - g) G20 – the chairmanship by India in 2022.
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# Foreign Policy Priorities for the future.....

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For a nation which desires to be a global power, India needs to

1. Substantially increase its Comprehensive National Power (CNP)
2. Secure greater harmony at home in conformity with our national mantra-  
‘Unity amidst Diversity’
3. Reduce the people’s tendency to be insular and inward-looking, and
4. Ensure higher awareness in its youth, business, civil society, academia and media about the changing world stage and India's growing role on it.



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Thank You

