

**SLC (University of Delhi)**

**Shyam Lal College**

**Department of Political Science & IQAC**

# International Conference

*In collaboration with*

**Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR)**

**Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity)**

**Understanding India's National Security in Emerging  
World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and  
Aspirations**

**01-02 May, 2025**

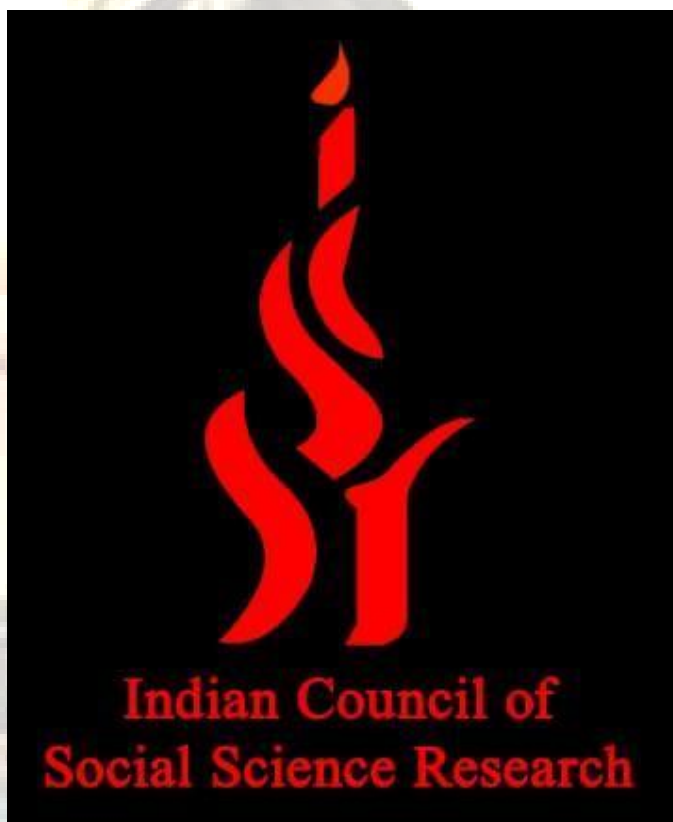
**India International Centre**

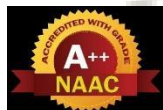
**Shyam Lal College**





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## ABOUT THE COLLEGE



Shyam Lal College (SLC), a co-educational constituent college of the University of Delhi, was established in 1964 by the great visionary and entrepreneur Padmashree (late) Shri Shyam Lal Gupta, the then Chairman of Shyam Lal Charitable Trust. The foundation stone of the college was laid down by Dr. Zakir Hussain, the then Hon'ble Vice President of India and Chancellor of the University of Delhi. Over the years, the institution has evolved into a leading higher education institute of learning, innovation and knowledge creation with consistent good NIRF Ranking among the Colleges of India. In fact, the college has been in the top 100 Colleges of India in NIRF Ranking. In 2023, the college achieved a new milestone as it was accredited with A++ grade by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). The College has also been selected for DBT STAR College Programme under the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2020. Today, SLC is a centre of academic excellence in the University of Delhi.



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

India is determined and committed to achieve the status of a developed country or Viksit Bharat (high middle income) by 2047 by transforming its industrial base from an agrarian and informal economy to an advanced manufacturing, and knowledge based economy. Currently, the country is experiencing a high economic growth rate from 2.9% in 1951-52 to 7.6% in 2023-24. The goal is clearly set to achieve a 4 trillion dollar economy by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, 5 trillion dollars by 2026-27, 7 trillion dollars by 2030, and 34.7 trillion dollars by 2047. This requires strategic vision for 2047. In line with this vision the national security strategy has been shifting from a defensive stance to a more proactive approach to safeguard its national interests. Keeping these interests as supreme, India has been modernizing almost all sectors and engaging with every country, every region on earth and its priorities has been seen in every international forum and its rise is also visible in its increased geopolitical level both regionally and globally. Its entire growth process and global ambitions will come to a screeching halt if security concerns are not adequately addressed. In this context, strengthening and improving its national security to safeguard its internal, regional as well as global interests are paramount. India's security challenges are emanating from within as well as external sources. In addition to the increasing nexus between internal and external forces are being at work to destabilize the economic growth. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is known as the Architect of United India. His contribution to India's Unity, Safety and Security is of paramount significance. Without his tireless dedication and perseverance there would have been no modern and confident India. His idea of self-belief, pragmatism, realism, and nationalism help every citizen of India to aspire for Viksit Bharat and strive to become a world power and position itself as the third pole in the international system. The international conference's focus is on deliberating the significance of his contributions, ideas, and vision towards making a secured and developed Bharat.



## CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

**CONFERENCE PATRON:** Smt. Savita Gupta (Chairperson, SLC)  
Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, SLC

**CORE COMMITTEE:** Prof. Kusha Tiwari (Director, IQAC)  
Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar (Conference Director)  
Prof. Neena Shireesh (Conference Advisor)  
Dr. Niranjan Chichuan (Conference Convenor)  
Dr. Srinivas Misra (Conference Secretary)

**IT COMMITTEE:** Mr. Manish Kumar  
Dr. Srinivas Misra  
Dr. Pawan Kharwar

**REPORT COMMITTEE:** Mr. Nartam Vivekanand Motiram  
Dr. Shraddha Nand Rai

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Dr. Rekha Kaushik  
Mr. Sumit Kumar

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE:** Dr. Shyam Sundar Prasad  
Dr. Rekha Kaushik  
Mr. Nartam Vivekanand Motiram  
Dr. Deepak Kumar  
Dr. Shraddha Nand Rai  
Mr. Sumit Kumar  
Dr. Pawan Kharwar  
Mr. Manish Kumar  
Ms. Nandita pal



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. S. D. Pandit	(VC, JNU, New Delhi)
Prof. S. P. Singh	(Director, South Campus, DU)
Prof. Sushma Yadav	(Former VC, BPSMV Sonapat, Haryana)
Prof. Rekha Saxena	(HoD, Political Science, DU)
Prof. Munim K. Barai	(Asia Pacific University, Japan)
Prof. Sanjeev Kumar H.M.	(Dept. of Political Science, DU)
Prof. Rajvir Sharma	(Dept. of Political Science, DU)
Dr. K. G. Suresh	(Director, India Habitat Centre)
Prof. Sanjeev K. Sharma	(Former VC, MGCU Motihari)
Shri. P.K. Mishra	(Former DG, Border Security Force)
Prof. Pralay Kanungo	(Leiden University, Netherlands)
Prof. Neena Shireesh	(Professor, Shyam Lal College, DU)
Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar	(Associate Professor, Shyam Lal College, DU)





## PROGRAMME FOR DAY 1

01 MAY 2025 (Thursday)

### Timings

### Events

Registration for Participation	09:00 am
Inauguration Session	9:30 am – 11:00 am
Tea	11:00 - 11:30 am
Plenary Session-I (IIC Auditorium)	11:30am - 1:00 pm
Lunch Break	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Plenary Session-II (IIC Auditorium)	2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
Plenary Session III (IIC Auditorium)	3:30pm – 5:00 pm
Tea	5:00 pm

## PROGRAMME FOR DAY 2

02 May 2025 (Friday)

Registration	09:00 am
Technical Session- I	9:30 am – 10:45 am
Tea	11.00 am
Technical Session- II	11:30am - 12:30 pm
Valedictory Session	12:30pm – 2:00 pm
Lunch	2.00 pm



## MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY  
नई दिल्ली-११००६७  
NEW DELHI-110067

प्रोफेसर शांतिश्री डी. पंडित  
कुलगुरु

Professor Santishree D. Pandit  
Vice-Chancellor



### MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, is organizing an International Conference on a very pertinent topic as national security and its implications for India. At a time when India is reclaiming its glory in the present world order, the national security issue is of paramount significance. India is positioning itself as an important as well as a responsible player in the comity of nations. At such a juncture of India's life we must recognize and strengthen India's national security priorities and create a robust security architecture to stand up to never challenges. Such topics will help the policy community, academics and students at large.

I congratulate the Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, for this timely initiative. The International Conference on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations" with the sponsorship of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the aegis of Rashtriya Ekta will certainly serve as a productive platform to deliberate upon the complex and evolving dimensions of national security. It is more so because this conference also intends to deliberate upon the contemporary significance of the ideas of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the endeavor to make India a strong, united and robust nation.

Date: 23 April, 2025

*Santishree Pandit*  
23/4/25  
(Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit)



## MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

It is indeed heartening to learn that the Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, with the sponsorship of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the Rashtriya Ekta initiative, is organizing a two-day International Conference on the theme "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities, and Aspirations." I extend my sincere congratulations to Shyam Lal College, SLC and the Department of Political Science for conceptualizing and organizing this timely and significant academically relevant topic of national significance.

National security remains a fascinating topic for academic engagement and it should be placed high priority in pedagogy as well. It is one of the core pillars for national development, unity and prosperity of the country. We must recognize that national security is crucial and must be ordained the highest possible priority not just by the governments but rather by all of us and educational institutions of higher learning in particular. The national security of India is very important at this juncture because India is rapidly emerging as one of the powerful nations in the world culturally, economically and strategically. Hence, it is necessary to academically engage ourselves on the topic of national security so as to prepare India to face all sorts of unforeseen challenges to national security.

This International Conference is very important and dear to me because it is inspired by the ideals and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to unite India at the initial years of India's political Independence. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is still alive in our imagination for uniting India and this has been possible due to his strong commitments and his personal sacrifices. Revisiting his ideas and visions at this juncture is crucial and I congratulate SLC, and the Department of Political Science for organizing this event. The Indian knowledge system is rich with knowledge relating to unity and security of the nation, and we also need to identify and bring them to public purview and integrate them into the overall policy paradigms on national security.

I extend my warmest wishes for the success of this important conference and look forward to its meaningful contributions.

Warm regards,  
**Prof. Balaram Pani**  
Dean of Colleges,  
University of Delhi





## MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



प्रो० श्रीप्रकाश सिंह  
निदेशक, दक्षिण दिल्ली परिसर

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय  
University of Delhi

Prof. Shri Prakash Singh  
Director, South Delhi Campus



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR UNIVERSITY OF DELHI SOUTH CAMPUS



I am delighted to know that the Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi is organizing a Two Days International Conference on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations" sponsored by ICSSR under the aegis of Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) to commemorate the vision and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for a resilient and resurgent Viksit Bharat.

I believe the subject matter of this International Conference is highly relevant in the contemporary context when our Great Nation, Bharat is reaching new heights in fast evolving global geopolitics and is playing a pivotal role in establishing peace and tranquillity at the global level through appropriate diplomatic means.

I sincerely hope that this International Conference will provide an appropriate platform to the policy makers, academicians, diplomats, researchers and the students to discuss and deliberate upon the crux of the issue and come out with appropriate policy suggestions which may make substantial contribution in this knowledge domain and help the policy makers in charting out future course of action taking a leaf out of the collective effort of this International Conference.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Organizing Committee of this International Conference for their relentless efforts to make this academic event a grand success.

Prof. Shri Prakash Singh

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## MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

It's a great pleasure to learn about the perennial academic progress of Shyam Lal College. It is indeed a matter of great pride and privilege to extend my heartfelt felicitations to the Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, for organizing this timely and significant International Conference on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations" with the sponsorship of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the aegis of Rashtriya Ekta. It will serve as a valuable

platform to deliberate upon the complex and evolving dimensions of national security in the contemporary era and significance of the ideas of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

I sincerely commend the organisers for this thoughtful endeavour and express my best wishes for the success of the conference which is being organized on 1-2 May 2025 at IIC and Shyam Lal College respectively. I strongly believe that the deliberations held during these two days lead to meaningful insights, fostering both academic enrichment and practical policy recommendations in the vital area of national security highlighting our successes, exploring new possibilities and shaping future aspirations.

### **Senior Professor Rekha Saxena**

Head, Department of Political Science,  
University of Delhi.



## MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I am glad to know that Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, is organising a Two-Day International Conference on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations", with the support of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the aegis of Rashtriya Ekta initiative

This academic endeavour, is not merely timely, it is necessary. I am happy to know that the topic selected by the organizers will seek to integrate the multilayered dimensions of national security spanning defence strategy, cyber resilience, internal cohesion, and geopolitical foresight. This event is also very significant because it is simultaneously drawing upon the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose statesmanship laid the cornerstone of a unified and sovereign Indian state. Sardar Patel's vision continues to animate our national discourse, reminding us that unity is not to be taken for granted, but a task to be renewed with every generation. This event is also very important today because of the recent developments in Pahalgam

India is fast becoming one of the leading powers in the world and in this process the strategic and national security is a paramount issue. For a nation like India, whose civilizational ethos is steeped in pluralism and whose strategic ambitions are firmly embedded in a democratic framework, the challenge lies in building a security architecture that is both resilient and forward-looking

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi and the Department of Political Science for conceptualizing and executing such a significant academic intervention. I am confident that the deliberations will not only enrich the scholarly community but also contribute substantially to India's evolving national security discourses.

With warm regards and good wishes for the success of the conference,

With Warm Regards

**Professor KG. Suresh**

Director, India Habitat Centre



## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to learn that Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi is organizing a two-day international conference supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the Rashtriya Ekta initiative, on "Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities, and Aspirations." I take this opportunity in expressing my sincere congratulations to the Department of Political Science, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, for conceptualizing and organizing an

International Conference on such an important topic of contemporary relevance. The national security is of paramount significance for India because India is at a crucial time of its reawakening. I believe that since India is rapidly becoming a powerful country, the question of national security is a major issue that we must focus on and build robust infrastructure in the interest of India's national security. I strongly commend the organizers for undertaking such an important rigorous academic discourse on matters of national significance.

In this dynamic time, India's national security debate is a major topic because the world is undergoing major transformations and changing at a fast pace due to AI in particular. We must recognize that Artificial Intelligence offers both challenges and opportunities for India. We have to focus on the sovereignty, unity, and strategic autonomy of our country and for this the young learners must be trained and academicians and practitioners must academically debate and build a strong narrative surrounding the issue of India's national security. India is poised to be a leading player in the international arena and if we want to achieve this endeavor we must sync it with a robust national security architecture. I am also glad to learn that this conference is being organized in the broader framework of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a united, strong and alert India. The relooking of the ideas and visions of Sardar Patel is a desirable thing to do to honor one of India's illustrious sons.

These kinds of exercises offer the intellectual foundation for creating a security framework that is sensitive to the realities of a changing global environment. I applaud the organizers for this well-considered and admirable endeavor, and I have no doubt that the discussions and revelations that come out of this conference will have a significant impact on current discussions about India's national security.

With my warmest wishes for the success of this important conference.

Warm Regards,

**Mrs. Savita Gupta**

Chairperson, Governing Body,  
Shyam Lal College



## THE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to have learnt about the organization of an International Conference by the Department of Political Science of Shyam Lal College with sponsorship from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) on “Understanding India’s National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations”. The Department of Political Science has been organizing similar quality academic activities regularly, and it is one of the highly productive departments of the college.

The issue of national security assumes enormous significance in a world characterized by rapid transformations, especially for a country like India that is gradually regaining its rightful position as a leading voice in the international community. It is crucial that we carefully consider and strengthen our national security goals as India presents itself as both an emerging power and a responsible and productive actor in the international community. We can create a strong, future-ready security framework only by reflecting on and discussing the opportunities and challenges presented by the changing global order.

This timely academic project is very important for scholars, researchers, and students who are involved in the issues that shape India's national life, as well as for policymakers. The conference's aim to explore and reaffirm the relevance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of a resilient, powerful, and united India in the modern era is encouraging. Our combined efforts to protect the nation's sovereignty and integrity in these trying times are still motivated by Patel's lasting legacy as the builder of national unity. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Political Science for organizing and hosting this conference on such an important topic. I have no doubt that the discussions over the course of these two days will provide insightful information, encourage thoughtful discussions, and significantly advance our understanding of India's national security.

I extend my best wishes for the grand success of this academic endeavor.

Warm Regards,  
**Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar**  
*Principal, SLC, University of Delhi*





## ADVISOR'S MESSAGE

The Department of Political Science of Shyam Lal College is a department of passionate, hardworking and socially motivated individuals that tirelessly strive to bring value to their cause. The aim is to encourage students to have information, knowledge and opinions on political issues related to them. We want to create a liberal space where minds are free and a voracious appetite for conversations is instilled in everyone. The department organizes the International Conference on “**Understanding India’s National Security in**

**Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations**” on 01 and 02 May, 2025 with zealous efforts of our present Principal Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar. It is worth mentioning that he constantly encourages the involvement of students in the various activities of college thereby consciously creating an environment to organize various workshops for students and staff. At various occasions the college has invited bureaucrats, policy makers, academicians from India and abroad to speak on a galaxy of topics for the benefit of students and teachers. The present International Conference too is another step in this direction. Wish you all the best for this endeavor.

**Prof. Neena Shireesh**

Advisor, International Conference



## CONVENOR'S MESSAGE

It's my honour and privilege to share you that that Department of Political Science of Shyam Lal College (SLC), University of Delhi is organising a Two Days International Conference on **"Understanding India's National Security in the Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations"** on 1-2 May, 2025 in association with the IQAC of the college. This International Conference is being sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi under the aegis of Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) to commemorate the vision and contribution of Vallabhbhai Patel in achieving United and Secured India. Today, we witness the shifting of power structures in the international politics that have been creating an opportunity for India. It's

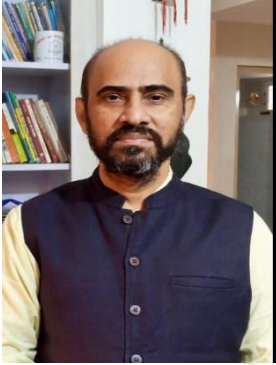
equally important to note that India's foreign and security policies are continuously evolving in response to shifting global geopolitical dynamics. As India is the fastest growing major economy in the world, for example, any disruption of global supply chains can be a threat to a nation's stability as well as for regional and global prosperity.

In this context, this International Conference is an ambitious attempt to discuss, exchange ideas with a galaxy of speakers, academics, experts and researchers and identify some security challenges that pose a threat to India's national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty in the emerging new world order.

I wish the grand success of the event!

**Dr. Niranjana Chichuan**

Convener of the Conference



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

I am highly elated that our Department of Political Science, SLC is organizing a two day' International Conference in collaboration with India International Centre (IIC), in New Delhi on 01 and 02 May, 2025. The International Conference on “Understanding India’s National Security in Emerging World Order: Achievements, Opportunities and Aspirations” is very significant in the present scenario. I am grateful to the convener for thinking to

organize the International Conference on the topic particularly because the paradigm shift of power structures in international politics seems to have been creating space for India. It's similarly imperative to note that the dynamic Indian Foreign Policy at present is friendly with evolving international reality. To cope with the transitional international political dynamics in the contemporary world, India began searching for suitable strategies and ways to implement them. India not only became successful in adjusting with the new realities but it also successfully defended its interests and projected itself as a pivotal player in the global order. It's in this context; the themes of our International Conference would demonstrate importance in augmenting the mixing of thoughts among researchers, scholars and academicians alongside. Wish everyone the very best for the grand success of this International Conference!

Warm Regards,

**Dr. Srinivas Misra**

Conference Secretary



## Abstracts of the Paper to be presented

Title and Abstract for Panel Session:

### **THE "NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST" POLICY OF INDIA IN NEPAL: ACHIEVEMENTS AND**

**Varun K Thakur' and Dr. Akshay K. Singh**

PhD Scholar, Gautam Buddha University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & International Relations

Introduced in 2014, India's Neighbourhood First policy aims to strengthen economic, political, and strategic ties with its neighbours, particularly Nepal, to foster regional cooperation. As a landlocked nation, Nepal is heavily reliant on India for trade, transit, and investment, Nepal serves as a key test case for this policy. This study critically examines India's engagement with Nepal over the past decade, highlighting achievements and challenges in both dimensions. Economically, India remains Nepal's largest trade partner, investor, and source of development aid. Cross-border infrastructure, including integrated checkpoints, railway links, and energy cooperation, has advanced significantly. Power trade agreements, notably the Arun III and Upper Karnali hydropower projects, underscore India's financial interest in Nepal's energy security. Additionally, initiatives such as the transit treaty, digital payment integration, and enhanced road connectivity reflect deepening economic interdependence. However, trade imbalances, non-tariff barriers, and Nepal's increasing economic ties with China, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), pose challenges to India's economic influence and regional dominance. Politically, India's role in Nepal has been both strategic and contentious. Despite shared democratic values and historical ties, allegations of Indian interference have strained relations. The 2015 constitutional crisis and the subsequent economic blockade fuelled anti-India sentiment in Nepal. Border disputes, particularly over Kalapani-Limpiyadhura, have further complicated diplomatic ties.

Meanwhile, Nepal's growing engagement with China presents a geopolitical challenge for India, necessitating a recalibrated approach. This study argues that India's Neighbourhood First policy must prioritize mutual respect, economic viability, and political sensitivity. Strengthening trade facilitation, investment- friendly policies, and people-centric diplomacy can help restore goodwill. A cooperative strategy that aligns with Nepal's economic aspirations while reinforcing democratic institutions will bolster India's position as a trusted regional partner and ensure long-term strategic stability in South Asia.

*Keywords: India-Nepal Relations, Neighbourhood First Policy, Economic Cooperation, Political Engagement, Trade, Foreign Policy, China Factor*





## New Calculus: India's Foreign Policy in an Era of Geostrategic Realignments

Sriyansh Mohanty

### Abstract

The paper evaluates India's foreign policy transformation in the face of the 21st-century global geostrategic shifts, which are marked by the U.S.-China competition, multipolarity and the decline of multilateral norms. By combining realist, liberal and constructivist theoretical approaches, the paper argues that India has pursued a "new calculus"-a pragmatic, multi-aligned strategy that balances aspirational global leadership, economic statecraft and strategic autonomy. The analysis centres around four foundational realignments. First, the Indo-Pacific Pivot, underpinned by coalition formation by way of the Quad to resist Chinese maritime growth. Second, the Middle East gambit by means of using energy diplomacy and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) to stabilize trade routes and check Chinese ingress. Third, transactional neutrality during the Russia-Ukraine war at the expense of energy security and defense autonomy despite Western diktat. And finally, Global South leadership, situating India as a voice for balanced governance through vaccine diplomacy, climate advocacy, and South-South solidarity.

Based on qualitative case studies such as the S-400 Triumph transaction, IMEC talks, and Vaccine Maitri, the paper points out India's transition from non-alignment to "multi-alignment" wherein alliances with competing powers (U.S., Russia, Iran, and Israel) exist together. The research indicates that India's foreign policy is motivated by systemic compulsions like China's emergence, U.S.-Russia bifurcation and domestic needs like energy security and economic development. The research concludes that India's "transactional neutrality" makes it a key swing state in a disruptive world order. However, maintaining the role requires nimble realignment of alliances, institutionalized Indo-Pacific alignments, and enhanced integration of Global South interests.

*Keywords: Foreign policy, Multipolarity, India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), Vaccine Maitri, multi-alignment, Indo-Pacific, Global South*



## **The Perspectives on India's Strategic and Economic Interests in the IMEC**

**Prashant Kumar Sharma**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Political Science  
Bidhan Chandra College,  
University of Calcutta.

### **Abstract:**

At the G20 summit in September 2023, a new and landmark India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was unveiled with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The IMEC is a multimodal transportation and energy corridor expected to drive economic development through enhanced connectivity and the economic integration of Asia and Europe. The aim is to unlock sustainable and inclusive growth potential. This initiative has great potential to enhance global trade efficiency and strengthen energy security.

The launch of this corridor has generated various perspectives regarding the intentions of countries participating in the IMEC. Each country is driven by its strategic and economic interests within the framework of the IMEC. This initiative also provides India with an opportunity to safeguard its national interests, including the strengthening of its geopolitical alliances with key nations in the Middle East, Europe, and North America. It is believed that India's involvement in the IMEC is corroborative of its growing diplomatic prowess. Furthermore, it is suggested that India can emerge as a significant player in global trade networks by emphasising the strategic and economic benefits of the IMEC. In addition, it is widely considered that the announcement of the IMEC is a global response to counter China's increasing economic influence. Some literature also indicates that the IMEC has emerged as an alternative to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This corridor, which builds on strategic and economic synergies, could be a breakthrough in India's enduring desire for connectivity with the world to the northwest after partition. This study specifically focuses on India's strategic and economic interests in the IMEC. It examines the geopolitical ramifications of the IMEC for India and explores how and why it presents India with an opportunity to become a geopolitical influencer in the region. Furthermore, it investigates how India will emerge as a significant player in global trade networks through the IMEC and how India views the rise of the IMEC in relation to the BRI.

This qualitative study is based on descriptive and explanatory analysis. It also follows the Induction and deduction method to conclude India's strategic and economic interests in the IMEC. Both primary and secondary data have been used in the study.

*Keywords: G20, India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Memorandum of Understanding, Middle East, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).*



## Visit Bharat and Its Roadmap for 2047: An Analytical Study

**Dr. Harishankar Singh Kansana.**

Asst. Professor (Political Science)

NSS Coordinator,

Jiwaji University Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (India)

**Dr Anjana Gupta**

Guest Faculty (Political Science)

PMCOE Govt. P.G. College

Datia, Madhya Pradesh (India)

### Abstract:

"Viksit Bharat 2047" envisions India as a developed nation by the 100th year at around its independence. This roadmap is a strategic and inclusive blueprint aimed at transforming India into a global leader in economic growth, technological innovation, social equity, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The vision emphasizes a people-centric and future-ready approach, focusing on empowering every citizen, enhancing infrastructure, and driving sustainable development across all sectors. The roadmap outlines key pillars such as robust economic development with a focus on manufacturing, digital economy, and green energy, social inclusivity through quality education, universal healthcare, and gender equality; and governance reforms promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. It also highlights India's commitment to becoming energy-independent, carbon-neutral, and self-reliant in critical sectors. Technological advancements such as AI, space tech, and digital infrastructure are integral to this transformation, alongside skill development to prepare the youth for a globalized world. Equally important are rural development, urban modernization, and fostering innovation to bridge regional and socio-economic divides. Through collaborative efforts between government, private sector, and civil society, Viksit Bharat 2047 aims to position India as a resilient, innovative, and equitable society. The roadmap is not just a policy framework but a national movement that requires active citizen participation and long-term commitment to inclusive growth and visionary leadership.

*Key Words: Viksit, Bharat, India 2047, development roadmap, sustainable growth, economic transformation, governance reform, digital India, social equity, environmental sustainability, inclusive development, innovation, self-reliance, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and technology.*



## **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as an architect of Secular, Democratic Indian Republic**

**Dr. Rekha Kaushik**

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### **Abstract:**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in India's independence movement, played a massive role in shaping the nation after 1947 as its first Home Minister and a leader in the Constituent Assembly. His efforts came at a critical time when India faced the chaos of partition and the challenge of uniting hundreds of princely states. Understanding his contributions sheds light on how India became the secular, democratic republic it is today. While Patel's role in integrating princely states is well-known, his broader impact on embedding secularism and democracy into India's foundation often gets overshadowed by figures like Nehru or Ambedkar. This gap leaves his full legacy underappreciated. This paper aims to explore how Patel's leadership and policies cemented India's identity as a unified, secular, and democratic nation. The study draws on historical records, Patel's speeches, Constituent Assembly debates, and secondary sources like biographies and scholarly articles. It analyses his actions-integrating states, protecting minorities, and shaping governance through a historical and political lens. Patel unified 562 princely states, ensuring a stable democratic framework, while his secular stance shone through in protecting Muslims during partition and banning the RSS after Gandhi's assassination. His push for an impartial bureaucracy and equality across castes and creeds reinforced India's constitutional values. Patel's work proves that practical leadership, not just ideology, built India's secular democracy. His legacy reminds us that unity and fairness are vital for a diverse nation's survival.

*Keywords: Sardar Patel, secularism, democracy, princely states, Indian Constitution*





## **India's Strategic and Economic Interests in a Changing World Order: Opportunities and Challenges**

**Kashish Goyal**

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### **Abstract:**

India's pursuit of strategic and economic prosperity is set against the backdrop of rapid global changes, which include rapid technological advancements and geopolitical shifts. As India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India faces both opportunities and challenges in achieving its dream of becoming a developed country by 2047. This paper examines how India handles these intricacies to secure its strategic and economic interests. The objectives of this paper are to evaluate India's ability to maintain strategic autonomy against the backdrop of rising global competition. Furthermore, the paper will identify key areas driving India's economic growth and their potential for sustainable development. A comprehensive Literature Review will be done by analysing policy documents, economic reports and geopolitical evaluation to comprehend India's strategic positioning. The preliminary findings suggest that India's economic growth is driven by sectors like manufacturing, tertiary services, and technology advancements. However, challenges such as unemployment require urgent attention. Additionally, India's role in global forums like BRICS and G20 showcases India's growing leverage in Africa and Latin America, enhancing geopolitical influence. India's strategic autonomy is supported by its ability to engage with multiple global powers while simultaneously maintaining independence in decision-making. The study summarises that India's growth and prosperity depend on its ability to balance strategic autonomy with economic progress by making use of geopolitical opportunities. While addressing domestic problems focus has to be on sustainable development and strategic partnerships. With this approach, India can curate a path to deal with the problems of the global landscape effectively,

*Keywords-Strategic interests, economic interests, geopolitics, sustainable development*



## **Act East Policy and Indo Pacific: An overview of India's foreign policy with special reference to SAGAR policy**

**Manraj Gurjar**

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Lakshimibai College

### **Abstract:**

India's foreign policy has many important dimensions under the "Act East Policy" and the SAGAR policy (Security and Growth for All in the Region) in the "Indo-Pacific" region. This policy has become an important basis for India's international relations, which emphasizes regional security, prosperity, and cooperation. India's "Act East Policy" was initiated in 1991 by the then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, and under it many steps were taken towards strengthening India's position in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. The SAGAR policy, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented as his foreign policy vision in 2015, is specifically to promote India's maritime security, regional cooperation and economic prosperity. This policy focuses on India's maritime rights, maritime security, and protection of trade routes and equitable distribution of maritime resources. Under this, India is trying to strongly increase strategic and economic relations with its neighboring countries.

The Indo-Pacific region, a rich and strategically important region, has become a hub of not only security but also development opportunities for India. India is taking several initiatives to strengthen its role in the region in technologies, trade, maritime security, and regional cooperation. Under the Indo-Pacific policy, India is increasing participation in important forums like the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) to balance the growing influence of China. All these initiatives in India's foreign policy are extremely important from the strategic, economic and diplomatic point of view. The "Act East Policy" and "SAGAR Policy" have established India as a regional and global power, enabling it to maintain effective and balanced relations not only with its neighbors but also with global powers.

*Keywords: Act East Policy, Southeast Asia, SAGAR, Indo-Pacific, and Quad*



## **Bridging Borders: India's Silent Strategy with Nepal and Bangladesh**

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### **Abstract:**

India's foreign policy approach towards its immediate neighbours, Nepal and Bangladesh, has evolved into a nuanced and often understated strategy that prioritizes stability, regional connectivity, and soft power diplomacy. This "silent strategy" underscores India's preference for quiet engagement over headline diplomacy, relying on shared history, cultural affinity, and economic interdependence to build lasting partnerships. In Nepal, India's calibrated response to political volatility and growing Chinese influence reflects a shift from overt political intervention to subtle diplomatic balancing. Simultaneously, India leverages infrastructure development, energy cooperation, and cross-border connectivity projects to maintain its strategic foothold.

With Bangladesh, India's engagement has deepened through coordinated efforts in security cooperation, trade facilitation, and water-sharing dialogues. The Land Boundary Agreement of 2015 and joint efforts in combating terrorism exemplify how silent diplomacy has led to substantial outcomes. Additionally, India's emphasis on people-to-people ties, cross-border transit routes, and cultural exchanges with both neighbours reflects its broader strategic vision of "Neighbourhood First."

By avoiding public confrontations and preferring quiet, outcome-driven diplomacy, India maintains regional influence while managing complex historical legacies and geopolitical pressures. This silent strategy enhances trust and avoids the backlash often associated with hegemonic deployment. As regional dynamics continue to evolve, India's approach toward Nepal and Bangladesh offers a model of pragmatic, patient diplomacy rooted in mutual respect and long-term strategic interests.

*Keywords: India-Nepal Relations, India-Bangladesh Relations, Silent Diplomacy, Neighbourhood First Policy, Regional Connectivity*



## **Changing Contours of India's Act East Policy**

**Surbhi Bhagat**

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### **Abstract:**

India's Act East Policy (2014) is an upgrade of the earlier Act East Policy and is an attempt to cater to the changing demands of India's foreign policy. Ten years since the policy came into existence, the scope of Act East Policy has expanded manifold times. The objective of this paper is to examine the changes and shifts the policy has undergone while navigating itself in the Indo-Pacific region. In order to understand the shifts the key questions that this paper will analyse is how the newly emerging geopolitical challenges and issues have brought a change in the nature and practice in the policy since its inception till 2024. One can notice that since 2014 there are some key issues and challenges that have made a major impact on the policy like- China's assertive presence in the region, centrality of ASEAN, the rise of Northeast India acting link between eastern economic corridor and other Asian economies, rising strategic and economic relations with countries like the USA, Australia and Japan, to name a few. While pursuing this study this paper in the end will focus on three major initiatives that can help India and the Act East Policy leverage the maximum potential in the region, namely the Indo-Pacific Ocean Initiative (IPOI) (2019), Security and Growth for All in the region (SAGAR) (2015) and

the Minilateral institution QUAD

*Keywords Foreign policy, Diplomacy, Geo-politics, Geo-economics, South Asia*





## National Security Modernization and Strategies

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### Abstract

National security modernization is a critical imperative for governments in the 21st century, driven by the rapid evolution of threats ranging from cyber warfare and terrorism to geopolitical instability and emerging technologies. As traditional defence mechanisms become increasingly inadequate, nations must adopt advanced strategies to safeguard their sovereignty, infrastructure, and citizens. This paper examines the transformation of national security frameworks, focusing on modernization efforts in military defence, intelligence, cybersecurity, and emerging technological integration. The paper begins by tracing the historical evolution of national security strategies, highlighting the shift from conventional military-centric approaches to more comprehensive models that incorporate hybrid warfare, artificial intelligence (AI), and cyber defence. It explores how leading nations, including the United States, China and the European Union, are leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as AI, quantum computing, and autonomous weapons to enhance their security postures. Additionally, the paper assesses the growing importance of cybersecurity in protecting critical infrastructure and countering state-sponsored cyber threats. Key challenges in National Security modernization are also analysed, including ethical dilemmas surrounding AI and surveillance, budget constraints, and the need for international cooperation amidst geopolitical tensions.

The paper concludes with strategic recommendations for policymakers, emphasizing the need for increased investment in research and development, stronger public-private partnerships, and adaptive regulatory frameworks to address future threats. By fostering innovation while balancing ethical considerations, nations can build resilient and forward-looking security architectures capable of countering evolving global risks.

*Keywords: National security, modernization, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, defence strategies, hybrid warfare, geopolitical threats*



## **Looking East towards Indo-Pacific: a critical analysis of India's Act East Policy and its implication for the India's North East**

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### **Abstract:**

The India's Act East Policy heralded a new era in the architecture of the nation's foreign policy, as it has a twin approach of both diplomatic as well as a domestic element. As a diplomatic approach, it seeks to boost economic, strategic and cultural ties with the different countries in the Asia-Pacific region at different levels and as a domestic element, it seeks to use the strategic location of the North East region (NER) and its connectivity with the neighbouring South East countries. As a policy, the Act East Policy has evolved from the earlier Look East Policy- it was largely influenced from the inadequacies of the regional security order in Asia as well as its reciprocal reaction against China's growing influence in the region. The paper seeks to critically analyse how the Look East policy seeks to engage with the Indo-Pacific countries and its issues of realpolitik by evaluating the objectives, importance and the challenges that the Act East Policy as well as analyse the various initiatives of the policy for the NER and its strategic importance as well as its implications for India's growing role in the global politics, which will help in understanding India's security concern in the emerging world order.

*Keywords. Act East Policy, Asia-Pacific, North East Region (NER), Look East Policy, Realpolitik*



## The Shakshat Disabled of Vikshit Bharat-Envisioning a Path

**Hema Kumari**

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### **Abstract:**

2047 marks the 100th anniversary of Independent India. The idea was initiated by the Government envisions development, progress and effective governance and calls for not only Vikshit Bharat but a Shakshat Bharat. The Shakshatikaran is important for Vikshit Bharat. The idea is Sabka sath, Sabka Vikas also needs Sabka Samavesh. It means that the development includes the person at the last of margins.

In this working paper, I submit that the Person with disability has been hitherto excluded in social, political and economic space. Even after the implementation of comprehension Acts, segregation still exists. According to the 2011 census, India has approximately 2.68 crore (26.8 million) people with disabilities, which constitutes 2.21% of the total population and to be truly Vikshit Bharat, we must include the disabled of India. So, I explore why and how to reach the goal, its important view disabled people as potential citizens. I submit that for empowered disabled, we need disabled political representation. Legislative representation is vital to Political empowerment, enabling participation in the law-making process (Ghosh 2022). People with disabilities have experienced decades of discrimination, and their underrepresentation in political power adds up to their marginalization. People with disabilities cannot be empowered without representation in the legislature.

Thus in lieu of Vikshit Bharat, I explore the hitherto ignored political representation of Disabled. This research is Qualitative where the data has been collected through existing literature, Policies and grey literature.

*Key words-Vikshit Bharat2047, Disability, Empowerment, Inclusion, Representation*



## **Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel Role in Nation Building with special reference to Reorganization of the States**

**Manish Verma**

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

### **Abstract:**

India's first home minister and deputy prime minister, the "Iron Man of India" Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel was most important to the country's political unification after the independence from British colonial rule. His practical leadership played a key role in the merger of more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union, a historic accomplishment that set the stage for the development of the country. With particular attention to Patel's opinions and involvement in the early discussions on state restructuring, this essay analyzes his contributions to the creation of a single union nation. Patel tackled the state reconstruction issue from the perspectives of administrative efficiency and national cohesion. During the early years of the independent India, he continued to be opposed to redevising states along linguistic lines because he believed that this would encourage regionalism, crowd national unity, and undermine administrative governance. He believed that linguistic states were problematic and inappropriate at a time when the newly independent country needed political unity and a strong centralized government. This study examines his speeches, correspondence, and policy actions. The JVP Committee 1948, in which Patel was also a member, rejected the immediate formation of linguistic states, emphasizing national unity and administrative stability over regional and linguistic demands. This paper explores the case that his cautionary attitude was based on a comprehensive understanding of India's complex socio-political structure. His approach prioritized administrative unity, strong institutions, and national integration over sentimental pleas for language distinctiveness.

*Keywords: Nation building, princely states, political unification, linguistic states*





## **Internal and External Threats: Emerging Security Environment, Challenges and Vulnerabilities**

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### **Abstract:**

Environmental security marks the interconnectedness of environmental health with economic stability, social cohesion, and political stability. India faces a complex and escalating array of non-traditional security threats emanating from environmental degradation and climate change. These threats extend beyond conventional military concerns, directly impacting human security, socio-economic stability, and national development. Key environmental challenges such as water scarcity, extreme weather events (floods, cyclones, and droughts), land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and rising sea levels pose significant risks to agriculture, livelihoods, infrastructure, and public health across the nation. Climate change acts as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and potentially leading to resource conflicts, mass migrations, and increased social unrest. Addressing these non-traditional security threats requires a holistic and integrated approach involving environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, sustainable resource management, and enhanced disaster preparedness, alongside traditional security measures. This abstract highlights the urgency of recognizing and addressing the environmental dimension of India's security paradigm to ensure long-term stability and prosperity.



## Central Asian Energy Geopolitics and India: Issues and Challenges

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### Abstract:

The five soviet central Asian states have appeared on the map of the world after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. Traditionally, Central Asia has been an area of "great game". Russia, China, US, Turkey, Iran, EU, Japan, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan have all substantial security and economic interests in the region. In order to maximize their geo-political advantage and also to ensure that their national interests are safeguarded, the Central Asian countries have become involved with the rest of the world through a variety of channels and institutions. Central Asian countries are land locked and have looked for building connectivity to global trade routes and markets. They are willing to revive the ancient Silk Route. Their connectivity with Russia remains the most dominant feature. The New Great Game had already started in this region. Major Powers are trying to revive the old Silk Road for energy and trade. The relations with central Asia is significant for India's short and long-term energy security goals in this region. 'Connect Central Asia Policy' is an official framework for India central Asia Relation in the present scenario. It is a multi-dimensional approach to reach Central Asia. This paper deals with the evolving Indian interests and energy security in Central Asian Republics as well as future prospects for India Central Asia Relations and foreign policy priorities. Being a late starter in the 'New great game' in the region and with significant civilizational links, India is playing a significant role through multi-lateral forums to tap the energy resources. India's soft power elements and cultural diplomacy is also playing a significant role in this regard.

*Key Words: New Great Game, Soft Power, Connect Central Asia, Geopolitics of Central Asia, SCO, TAPI*



## India as a Global Peacekeeper: Gandhian Ethics in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions

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### **Abstract:**

India has consistently been a significant troop contributor to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to global peace and security. This commitment is rooted in India's foreign policy, which emphasizes multilateralism and adherence to the principles of the UN Charter. India's involvement is not merely symbolic; it provides substantial resources, including troops, police personnel, and financial assistance, to support peacekeeping operations across the globe. The country's dedication to these missions reflects a broader aspiration to play a constructive role in maintaining international order and fostering stability in conflict-affected regions. India's contributions extend beyond troop deployments, encompassing logistical support, medical assistance, and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping forces. By actively participating in these operations, India seeks to promote its image as a responsible and reliable member of the international community, committed to upholding the principles of peace, justice, and development.

This research explores how Gandhian ethics shape India's peacekeeping strategies within the UN framework, providing a unique lens through which to examine the country's contributions to global peace and security. By analysing India's peacekeeping operations through the prism of Gandhian philosophy, this study seeks to identify the extent to which the principles of nonviolence, tolerance, and peaceful conflict resolution inform the country's approach to maintaining peace in conflict-affected regions. The research will also examine the challenges and contradictions that arise when applying Gandhian ethics in complex, real-world peacekeeping scenarios, where the use of force may be necessary to protect civilians and maintain order.

*Key words: United Nations, peacekeeping missions, multilateralism, international community  
Gandhian ethics*



## **India in Indo-Pacific: from SAGAR to Mahasagar**

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### **Abstract:**

The Indo-Pacific region has become a pivotal arena for global geopolitical and economic shifts, shaped by evolving power dynamics, strategic rivalries, and emerging maritime security challenges. This paper explores the changing landscape of the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing key geopolitical issues such as the expanding influence of China, the militarization of critical maritime chokepoints, and the intricate interplay among regional and global powers. In response to these challenges, India has articulated a dynamic maritime strategy through its flagship initiatives, "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and "MAHASAGAR" (Maritime Awareness for Security and Growth in the Region). These strategic frameworks reflect India's broader geopolitical ambitions, highlighting its commitment to regional security, economic prosperity, and the promotion of a rules-based international order.

Through this analysis, the paper sheds light on the nuanced evolution of India's maritime strategy and its role in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific. In conclusion, the Indo-Pacific is increasingly characterized by a complex mix of competition, contestation, and conflict, alongside cooperation, collaboration, and convergence. India's initiatives under SAGAR and MAHASAGAR underscore its proactive approach to safeguarding maritime interests, fostering regional prosperity, and asserting its leadership within the Indo-Pacific region.

*Keywords: SAGAR, MAHASAGAR, Indian Ocean Rim Association, Indo-Pacific*





## **Balancing Act: India's Foreign Policy in the Maldives Amidst China's Expanding Foot Print**

**Arya SS**

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University of Kerala

### **Abstract**

The Indian Ocean has become a theatre of strategic contestation, with small island nations like the Maldives emerging as critical nodes in the geopolitical rivalry between regional powers. This paper critically examines India's foreign policy toward the Maldives in the context of China's expanding economic and strategic footprint in the region. Traditionally bound by historical, cultural, and civilizational ties, India and the Maldives have shared a relationship shaped by mutual trust and neighbourhood proximity. However, the growing influence of China, manifested through infrastructure investments under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), enhanced diplomatic engagements, and maritime presence has posed new challenges to India's strategic calculus.

This study delves into India's nuanced diplomatic posture, identifying key moments of recalibration and strategic assertion, particularly post-2018, when democratic transition in the Maldives offered a renewed opportunity for engagement. Through a qualitative research methodology, combining both primary and secondary data was collected through structured interviews with the academic experts and scholars based in the Maldives. The policy documents, bilateral agreements, public statements, and regional security initiatives, the paper assesses India's multidimensional approach: combining economic aid, infrastructure development, defence cooperation, and people-to-people linkages under the framework of "Neighbourhood First" and "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The India-Maldives relationship within the broader regional dynamics of Indo-Pacific security, the study underscores the strategic dilemma India faces of deepening ties without appearing coercive, while also countering the appeal of Chinese investments. The paper concludes by reflecting on the sustainability of India's current foreign policy approach and the need for long-term strategic vision in securing its maritime periphery.

*Key Words: Geo Politics, Indian Ocean Region, Maritime security, Neighbourhood First Policy, Soft power, Strategic security*



## **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Iron Man behind the United India**

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**Dr. Kamla**

Assistant Professor in SGND Khalsa College, Delhi University

### **Abstract:**

India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, often known as "The Iron Man of India." who was instrumental in the country's political unity. A unified India is not a new concept. It predates Indian civilization by the same amount. The concept of Akhand Bharat, which encompassed all areas being under a single rule, was articulated by the renowned Indian scholar Kautilya. India gained its independence in 1947 after a protracted fight. India had about 565 princely states under a single authority before the British split it into Bharat and Pakistan. Peacefully bringing them together was a difficult task. At that time, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel came up with and put into action the idea of a united India, and in 1950, his dream was realized. At the time of independence, India was split into two categories of territories: one was directly governed by the British government and under British control, and the other consisted of 562 princely states that were indirectly governed by the British but had different revenue arrangements with the British and internal affairs controlled by their rulers. Portugal and France also ruled over a few states. With effect from January 1, 1948, the Eastern India Agency and the Chhattisgarh Agency signed merger agreements in December 1947, combining their states into Orissa, Central Provinces, and Bihar. Following that, 66 states from Gujarat and the Deccan including the sizable states of Kolhapur and Baroda were incorporated into Bombay in 1948. Madras, East Punjab, West Bengal, the United Provinces, and Assam were formed by the merger of numerous other tiny states. In the same year, Himachal Pradesh was formed by combining 30 small states that had been part of the Punjab Hill States Agency.

For the larger states along delicate border regions, such as Tripura and Manipur in Northeast India and Kutch in Western India, a second category of merger agreements was approved. When Patel demanded a plebiscite and the forcible annexation of Junagarh in 1948, the region became a part of India. After negotiations failed and the princely states of Hyderabad and Goa refused to support Sardar Patel's agenda, he dispatched the Indian Army to quell protests. A few days later, Hyderabad was incorporated into India. For geographical, political, and security considerations, Jammu and Kashmir also known as "the heaven on earth" was a crucial state. Sardar Patel was crucial to its merger, and as a result of his prompt involvement, Maharaja Hari Singh executed the instrument of accession for Jammu and Kashmir on October 26, 1947. The Indian Army only entered Kashmir on October 27, 1947, thanks to Sardar Patel's audacious move. However, despite his best efforts, the people of Jammu and Kashmir had to deal with the provisions of Article 370, which the Indian government repealed in 2019. Today, the single central government spans from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Kathiawar to Kamarupa (the former name of Assam). This Ideal 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was made possible in large part by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He played an instrumental role in creating this Akhand Bharat.



## **Cross Border Cyber Threats to India and its countermeasures: The Role of AI in reinforcing India's Cyber security.**

**Aliya Saifi**

Research Scholar, Jamia Millia Islamia I

### **Abstract:**

This paper outlines the Cross Border Cyber Threats to India's internal security, being one of the influential nations in the world, followed by the role of AI in achieving cyber security in India. As forging ahead, with the emerging interconnection and interdependence of the world, cyberspace has become an indispensable domain shaping national security and stability of the world. Cyber security diplomacy has become central to international agendas, progressing to digital global power. The study will further elaborate on the laws and efforts of India in response to these cyber threats. It will also examine the research through Qualitative methodology involving historical method of analysing past cyber threats happening in India and ethnography method to analyse the cross border ethnicity and its different issues.

Cyber-attack may refer to attacks that target computer systems, infrastructure and networks. Cross border cyber threats indicate malicious activities originating from foreign entities, spyware using sensitive information, targeting risk to internal security, national sovereignty, financial institutions etc. The cross border cyber threats to India may include various cybercrime, data breaches, spam and phishing etc. The borders of India are not identical and vary geographically, socially, culturally and politically. Hence each border is treated differently according to its mutual relationship with the other.

India is also collaborating with other countries to address the issue of cyber threats more effectively and developing more countermeasures in response to the problem. Therefore India is adopting a multifaceted approach to deal with this problem. The present study will include the role of AI in combating cyber-attacks. The technology has undergone various advancement and innovations. There are different methods such as behavioural analytics, machine learning for threat detection, deep learning for image recognition, sadhar and biometric security through which AI helps achieving cyber security. Hence this paper will explore cross border cyber threats to India's security and India's countermeasures towards this trouble. It will further elaborate on the role of AI in reinforcing India's cyber security.



## **National Integration and Security: Sardar Patel's Constitutional Vision**

**Ankita Singh**

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### **Abstract:**

India's fight for independence was not only a movement to free itself from colonial rule but also a mission to address the deep-seated divisions that had fractured the subcontinent for centuries. The partition of 1947, which carved out Pakistan, brought with it unprecedented challenges for the newly sovereign nation. It disrupted the vision of a unified India and intensified the task of reconciling vast cultural, linguistic, religious, and regional diversities. This monumental challenge of national integration was further compounded by threats to internal stability and external security, demanding a robust framework to forge unity and safeguard sovereignty.

The Indian Constitution emerged as the cornerstone of this vision, designed to unite the country's diverse communities while ensuring stability and security. It aimed to build a cohesive social contract that could prevent fragmentation and address the vulnerabilities of a nascent state. At the forefront of this endeavor was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, fondly known as the "Iron Man of India." Patel's statesmanship and leadership were pivotal in the integration of over 560 princely states into the Indian Union. His diplomatic ingenuity, coupled with firm resolve, ensured the accession of states like Hyderabad and Junagadh, thereby safeguarding India's territorial integrity and preventing further disintegration.

Patel's vision extended far beyond political integration. He championed the need for a strong central authority, a unified military, and a professional civil service as vital instruments for securing the nation against internal unrest and external aggression. His foundational efforts in establishing the All-India Services underscored his belief in an impartial and effective administrative framework as a "steel frame" for governance. His contributions in shaping the Indian Constitution reflected his pragmatic approach to balancing federalism with the imperatives of unity and security.

This study delves into Sardar Patel's unparalleled role in national integration and security. Through an analysis of his leadership, policies, and constitutional foresight, it underscores how Patel laid the groundwork for India's resilience and sovereignty. His legacy continues to resonate in contemporary discourses on governance, federalism, and nation-building, offering valuable lessons for addressing the complexities of unity and security in diverse and pluralistic societies.

*Keywords: National Integration, Security, Constitutional Vision, Federalism, Unity and Sovereignty*





## India Central Asia Strategic Relations

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### **Abstract:**

India's strategic engagement with Central Asia is rooted in centuries-old historical and cultural ties, dating back to the era of the Indus Valley Civilization and flourishing along the ancient Silk Road. These civilizational connections fostered extensive people-to-people interactions, trade, and the exchange of ideas. In the contemporary geopolitical landscape, Central Asia occupies a pivotal position as a gateway between Europe and Asia, offering significant opportunities for trade, investment, and energy cooperation. The region is endowed with abundant natural resources, including crude oil, natural gas, gold, copper, and aluminium, which are of strategic interest to India. Furthermore, both India and Central Asian countries share common security concerns such as terrorism and drug trafficking, prompting collaboration in counter-terrorism and cybersecurity initiatives. However, geographic constraints particularly the lack of direct land access due to Pakistan and Afghanistan pose challenges to deeper engagement. In light of these constraints, India's strategic approach must emphasize soft power diplomacy, cultural engagement, and multilateral partnerships to strengthen ties with the region. The paper testifies to explore the strategic engagement of Central Asian countries with India.

*Keywords: India-Central Asia relations, Silk Road, soft power diplomacy, energy cooperation, regional security, counter-terrorism, strategic geography, trade and investment.*



## **Examining South Asian Diplomatic Ties: A Focus on India's Soft Power Approach**

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### **Abstract:**

Throughout the 1990s, India promoted peaceful progress and amicable relationships with neighbouring countries. It extensively utilized soft power strategies to shape its foreign policy, aiming to establish its legitimacy both in South Asia and globally. The application of soft power was expected to enhance relations and cause bilateral conflicts among South Asian nations. Sushma Swaraj, the Minister of External Affairs in 2014, clearly expressed that India's growth cannot be fully realized or maintained without establishing effective collaborations with its neighbouring countries. India is committed to fostering closer ties with its neighbours to achieve shared development objectives. In this context, India is prepared to go above and beyond to generate opportunities and create positive cycles of regional prosperity. This reflects the Indian government's "Neighbours First" policy toward its neighbouring countries. This principle applies to nearly every country in the world, where what happens in one country definitely affects its neighbours. Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had said that a nation's foreign policy is best tested against its neighbours. The logic behind this approach is straightforward that India can concentrate on its primary interest i.e. economic growth, without any disruptions. India remains dedicated to this soft power approach in its interactions with neighbouring countries. Considering this context, it is crucial to examine India's foreign policy in the subcontinent and the emerging soft power paradigms in its regional relationships. This paper seeks to explore how India could employ soft power as a diplomatic tool in its foreign policy dealings with neighbouring nations specifically in South Asia. By exploring how India utilizes cultural, social, and political influence to foster connections with nearby nations, the research aims to shed light on the nuanced dynamics of regional diplomacy in this part of the world.

*Key words: Soft power, Neighbours First, South Asia, Diplomacy*



## **Viksit Bharat and the National Security of India in the Context of Present Global Power Structure**

**Dr. Niranjana Chichuan**

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### **Abstract:**

International politics, like all other politics, is a struggle for power. The realist and neo-realist theories conceptualize power as the overall amount of capabilities possessed by a state. Accordingly, a distinction has been made between states on the basis of their power within the international sphere. The most powerful state remains at the top and the less powerful states lay at bottom as states run under the system of hierarchy. The main characteristics of power, i.e., military and economic capability and later on the soft power capability have also been added in the power structure. India has been recognized as an emerging power, especially after the unprecedented economic growth and conducted nuclear test in 1998. Today, India's overall power has increased manifold and its influence not just confined to its neighbours but proliferated its trade and security relations outside the region, especially with the major powers. Power manifests itself in many ways.

Keeping these interests in supreme, India has been modernizing almost all sectors and engaging with every country, every region on earth and its priorities has been seen in every international forum and its rise is also visible in its increased geopolitical level both regionally and globally. Its entire growth process and global ambitions will come to a screeching halt if security concerns are not adequately addressed. In this context, strengthening and improving its national security to safeguard its internal, regional as well as global interests are paramount. India's security challenges are emanating from within as well as external sources. In addition to the increasing nexus between internal and external forces are being at work to destabilize the economic growth.

In this context, the aim of the paper is to examine how the concept of power of nation-states has changed with the changing of time and also try to assess how India is repositioning itself in the changing global power structure.

*Keywords: India, Great Power, Major Power, Rising Power, Power Capabilities*



## **Artificial Intelligence and India's National Security: Strategic Challenges, Ethical Dilemmas, and Policy Pathways**

**Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar**

Associate Professor, Shyam Lal College, DU.

### **Abstract**

For India's national security architecture, the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) as a game-changing technology has brought both enormous opportunities and difficulties. India has a strategic obligation to successfully utilise AI technologies while tackling the risks, moral dilemmas, and geopolitical ramifications that come with them as they become essential to defence modernisation, cybersecurity, internal security, and critical infrastructure management.

The strategic, operational, and normative issues raised by the incorporation of AI into the defence and intelligence sectors are the main focus of this paper's critical examination of the developing relationship between AI and national security in the Indian context. The report highlights the strategic value and dangers of AI-enabled surveillance, autonomous systems, cyber defence mechanisms, and decision-support tools as they relate to security operations. Threats from AI-powered disinformation, cyberattacks, and hostile manipulation are given special attention since they represent increasing dangers to India's democratic institutions, electoral procedures, and public confidence.

The study also evaluates the geopolitical implications of AI in the Indo-Pacific area, where regional enemies and superpowers are advancing technology at a rapid pace, potentially leading to strategic imbalances. India is concerned about digital dependency, cyber sovereignty, and strategic vulnerabilities as a result of the AI race, especially in light of its adversarial neighbours and international technology monopolies. The moral and legal conundrums raised by AI in national security, including accountability, algorithmic prejudice, and adherence to international humanitarian law, are also thoroughly examined. Based on policy papers, interdisciplinary research, and recent advancements in India's technology and defence industries, the study suggests a framework for responsible AI governance in India's national security strategy. It emphasises the necessity of developing AI capabilities domestically, as well as the necessity of strong regulatory frameworks, moral principles, and international collaborations in order to protect national interests while guaranteeing conformity to democratic principles and international standards.

By providing a targeted, India-centric examination of the potential and threats presented by AI in the field of national security, this study adds to the conversation on AI and security. In order to help the Indian government, defence establishments, and technology regulators navigate the intricate security landscape generated by AI, it presents practical policy proposals. Policymakers, military strategists, technology specialists, and academics who are interested in protecting India's strategic and sovereign interests in the era of artificial intelligence would find the study especially pertinent

*Key words: Artificial intelligence (AI) Modernisation, Cybersecurity, Surveillance, Geopolitical, Indo-Pacific. Digital dependency, Cyber sovereignty, Algorithmic prejudice. Democratic principles.*





## **Strategic Autonomy and Hedging: India's Realist Approach to the QUAD**

**Dr. Pawan Kharwar**

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### **Abstract**

India's engagement with the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), a strategic partnership involving the United States, Japan, Australia, and India reflects a nuanced balance between cooperative security interests and the preservation of strategic autonomy. This paper critically examines India's evolving participation in the QUAD through the lens of classical and neorealist theories of International Relations. It argues that India's foreign policy behavior vis-à-vis the QUAD can best be understood as a form of hedging where India simultaneously seeks to counterbalance the rise of China while avoiding rigid alliance entanglements that may constrain its decision-making sovereignty. The realist tradition posits that states act in a self-interested manner to maximize security and relative power in an anarchic international system. Within this framework, India's strategic posture toward the QUAD underscores a realist calculation of threats and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific. India leverages the QUAD's security consultations, military interoperability, and economic cooperation to enhance its regional stature and deterrence capabilities. At the same time, India's reluctance to formalize the QUAD as a military alliance or take overt anti-China positions underscores its commitment to strategic autonomy, a core pillar of its foreign policy doctrine since independence.

Through a qualitative analysis of official statements, policy documents, joint communiqués, and diplomatic engagements from 2017 to 2024, this study explores how India operationalizes realist principles in a multipolar world. It also examines the influence of historical non-alignment, domestic political constraints, and regional aspirations in shaping India's approach. The paper contributes to the growing body of literature on hedging strategies in Asia and challenges the binary understanding of alignment versus autonomy by highlighting India's multi-vector, interest-driven foreign policy. Ultimately, this paper contends that India's realist strategy within the QUAD framework is not a contradiction but a deliberate act of diplomatic pragmatism allowing India to simultaneously manage the China challenge, enhance great-power partnerships, and maintain its independent agency in global affairs.

*Keywords: Strategic Autonomy, Hedging, QUAD, Realism, Indo-Pacific, International Relations Theory*



## Sway of India in the Geopolitics of Global South

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### **Abstract:**

In the age of globalization, mainly in the southern hemisphere the composite web of interconnectedness confined India to show its unique strength that shapes global pacts and associations. India's commitment for pushing South-South Cooperation at different multilateral forums and backing a more acceptable image in global governance supporting with its leadership vision. India's role in global south is marked through capacity building and humanitarian efforts. With initiatives like 2.5 million fund for trade promotion and a 1 million fund for enabling trade policy competences India is aiding partner nations shape strong economies. Additionally, India's G20 presidency offers a stage to tie global south nations around persistent issues like economic growth, climate change and sustainable development. By backing for reform for global governance, cherishing trade and a marching through humanitarian and developmental efforts, India personified its vision of a balanced global order.

India offers a more beneficial leadership model for global south compared to China, based on democratic value, balanced diplomacy and inclusive economic growth. India's democratic governance promote freedom, sovereignty and local agency, empowering global south nations through initiative like the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program.

*Keywords: Globalization, Southern hemisphere, South-South Cooperation, Global governance. G20, Global order, Balanced diplomacy, Inclusive economic growth, Sovereignty*



## **Topic: "Strategic Significance of India's Northeastern States in National Security and Regional Stability"**

**Mr.Nartam Vivekanand Motiram**

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### **Abstract**

The Northeastern region of India, comprising eight states and sharing international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, holds immense strategic importance in the context of India's national security and regional stability. This paper critically examines the geopolitical, socio-political, and security dimensions of the region, highlighting its role as both a strategic asset and a security challenge. It explores the complex interplay of cross-border ethnic linkages, insurgency movements, infrastructural gaps, and foreign policy dynamics, particularly in the context of India's "Act East Policy". The paper also analyzes the region's growing relevance in Indo-Pacific geopolitics, regional trade, and connectivity initiatives such as BIMSTEC and ASEAN partnerships. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining strategic studies, international relations, and regional development, the study underscores the need for a nuanced policy framework that balances security imperatives with inclusive development and regional cooperation. The findings aim to contribute to broader discussions on borderland governance, regional integration, and strategic foresight in South Asia



## **National Security and Foreign Policy Nexus on the Path to Viksit Bharat 2047"**

**Ms. Nandita Pal**

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### **Abstract**

As India strives to become a developed nation by 2047, its national security and foreign policy play a crucial role in achieving this vision. This paper explores the intricate linkage between India's national security and foreign policy, examining how they intersect to shape the country's trajectory towards Viksit Bharat. It analyzes the complex security challenges India faces, including terrorism, border disputes, and economic vulnerabilities, and how these challenges inform its foreign policy decisions. The paper also discusses India's strategic partnerships, diplomatic efforts, and military modernization initiatives, highlighting their impact on national security and foreign policy. By examining the interplay between national security and foreign policy, this paper provides insights into India's rise as a global power and its pursuit of Viksit, Bharat. The findings of this paper will contribute to a deeper understanding of India's strategic priorities and offer policy recommendations to ensure a secure and prosperous future for the nation. This research will be relevant to scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in India's development and global role.

*Keywords: Foreign policy, Viksit Bharat, Modernization, Strategic, Policymakers, Stakeholders*





## **Agricultural Policy and Farmers' Income: Building a strong agricultural policy framework for 'Viksit Bharat' 2047.**

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### **Abstract:**

Viksit Bharat@2047 envisions India as a developed nation (middle-income group) by 2047, the centenary of our independence. This would entail sustained economic growth of 8 to 9% every year for at least a decade (Economy Survey, 2024-25). To achieve 8 to 9 per cent of GDP growth, the agricultural growth rate must be 6%. The 'Agriculture and Allied Activities' sector has long been the backbone of the Indian economy, playing a vital role in employment and national income. This sector contributes approximately 16 per cent of the country's GDP and supports about 46.1 per cent of the population (Economy Survey, 2023-24 & 2024-25). The Indian agricultural sector has been facing several crises from decades. Millions of farmers commit suicide due to agrarian distress. As per the Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households in the rural areas of the country conducted by NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Mospi) during the 77th round, the average monthly income of an agricultural household at the India level is 10,218 rupees only (PIB, 2022). The figures are enough to prove that the condition of farmers is very pathetic. The government of India has taken several initiatives to improve the conditions of farmers. However, without a strong agricultural policy framework, it is difficult to achieve the agricultural goals in 'Viksit Bharat' 2047. In this paper, I will try to evaluate the current Agricultural policy and Minimum Support price-related issues. The government of India is moving towards sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. The government of India is promoting cooperative agriculture, so that agriculture can be sustainable in 'Viksit Bharat @2047'. I will also evaluate and analyse the cooperative agricultural policies in the context of 'Viksit Bharat @2047'.

*Key Words: Agriculture, Climate Change, Cooperative, Farmers' Income, Minimum Support Price.*



## India's Increasing Diplomatic Credibility and Rise of Soft Power in a Polarized World

**Mr. Sumit Kumar**

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University of Delhi

### **Abstract:**

Ever since Joseph S. Nye Jr coined the term “soft power,” several countries in the world began to embrace the approach in their foreign policies including India. To boost its reputation internationally, India has been projecting soft power image and influence through its public and cultural diplomacy for decades. The Government of India has been promoting cultural connectivity, diaspora engagement, technology, innovations, for example, the marking of International Yoga Day, popularizing traditional medicine and many others. Political Scientist Ernest J. Wilson rightly observes that “countries aspire to use soft power to be counted among global power leaders without necessarily having a superpower’s financial power or military might”. In this context, the larger goal of soft power diplomacy is making India into a large investment destination and increase diplomatic credibility, thereby contributing to its economic and military power (Hard Power) along with India’s faith in peace, inclusiveness, and sustainable development. The article explains how the government has eager to exploit its dormant soft power assets in the face of power shifts in the international politics to fulfill its foreign policy objectives.

*Key words: Soft Power, Diaspora, Technology, Yoga, Ayurveda Medicine*



## **Territorial Disputes and the Changing Dynamics of India's National Security Policies**

**Mr. Bunt**

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### **Abstract:**

India's national security is closely linked to its territorial disputes, particularly with its neighbour's, Pakistan and China. These conflicts are not just political issues; they deeply affect the lives of everyday people living in border areas and beyond. This paper explores the historical roots of these disputes, such as the ongoing conflict over Kashmir and tensions along the Line of Actual Control with China. It highlights how these disputes shape India's security policies, leading to increased military readiness and strategic partnerships with other countries. However, the impact on local communities is significant, as families face uncertainty and fear in their daily lives. The Indian government has taken various steps to address these challenges, including modernizing the military, improving infrastructure in border regions, and engaging in diplomatic efforts to foster cooperation with neighbouring countries. While these initiatives are essential for maintaining security, it's crucial to consider how they affect the people living in these areas. Ultimately, this paper calls for a balanced approach to national security that combines military preparedness with diplomatic efforts and regional collaboration. By focusing on the human aspect of security, India can create a safer and more stable environment for all its citizens.

*Key Words: Territorial disputes, Conflict, Diplomatic, National Security, Regional Collaboration*



## **Military Regime in Myanmar: Opportunities and Challenges for India in Regional Stability**

**Luntinthang Khongsai,**

PhD Candidate, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

### **Abstract:**

Since its independence in 1948, Myanmar's political landscape has undergone considerable transformation. The Union of Burma began as a parliamentary democracy, like most of its newly independent neighbors on the Indian subcontinent. It lasted until 1962, when General Ne Win led a military coup and held power. The Military Rule in Myanmar lasted from 1962 to 2011 and resumed in 2021. Cycles of military rule, brief democratic openings and prolonged conflicts have defined Myanmar's history. Myanmar struggled with military rule, civil war, poor governance, and widespread poverty throughout its decade of independence. It has consistently suppressed political rivals, internal resistance and public uprisings through coercion. The 2021 coup returned Myanmar to military rule and shattered hopes for democratic progress in a Southeast Asian country beset by decades of conflict and repressive regimes. The relationship between India and the Myanmar Military is shaped by historical forces that gradually draw them closer. This closeness has evolved out of geopolitical and geostrategic necessities due to its shared border and rivalry or competition with other regional powers. India and Myanmar share a long land border of over 1,643 kilometers and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. Interestingly, while India's engagement with East and Southeast Asia has progressed by sea, land routes are also vital, and Myanmar plays a crucial role in facilitating this connectivity. In the 1990s, India launched its Look East Policy (later Act East), which focuses on regional connectivity, developmental aid, and military support with Myanmar. This policy plays an important role, as evidenced by the growing engagement with the Myanmar ruling elites since 1998. Myanmar is an important country in the neighborhood as it provides a land route to Southeast Asia and is the only country where the Act East and Neighborhood First Policy converged. This paper explores the recent development in Myanmar that has raised several questions about the success of India's geo-strategic connectivity ambition through the Bay of Bengal and its relation with the Myanmar Military. Today, the local Ethnic Armed Organizations have overrun several military posts along the route where the connectivity project passes through. Despite the potential for cross-border connectivity, the border region faces several challenges that can only be addressed better with regional cooperation between the two countries. However, the infighting and instability in the border areas between the pro-democracy forces and the Military Junta have questioned the viability of India's already stalled ambition of strategic connectivity through its land route and the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean Region. To safeguard its interests and fulfil its Act East aspirations, this paper tries to identify issues that can hamper India's constructive engagement that focuses on the Military Junta in particular and other stakeholders to work towards a peaceful resolution to the crisis to secure stability and friendly relations vital for regional connectivity and cooperation. Pursuing a strategy of multi-alignment in Myanmar is essential for India's diplomatic efforts in the region. In conclusion, this paper argues that despite the challenges, India





possesses the diplomatic capabilities to navigate the intricacies of Myanmar's internal dynamics to bring regional stability.

*Keywords: Geostrategic, Geopolitics, Act East Policy, Security, Connectivity*





## Revisiting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru: 15 August 1947 -15 December 1950

**Dr. Etee Bahadur**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper is an attempt to revisit the issues that India post-Independence faced and deals with how the issues were dealt with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Nehru, it covers the period between 15 August 1947 to 15 December 1950 (till the passing away of Patel). The paper covers the life sketch of Patel. I have chosen these years as I wish to cover issues facing India during the first few years of Independence. The biographies of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel of Balraj Krishna, of Hindol Sengupta and by Urvish Kothari and the *Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru* Second Series Vol 4 onwards, *Sardar Patel's Correspondence*, 1945-50 been used to substantiate the argument. Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter to Shankardeo written in 1953, three years after the death of Patel writes how he had depended on Patel during these earlier years to the views of Sardar Patel for he felt that Sardar Patel had felt more strongly over the question of priority on issues of nature of the problems that were faced during the first few years of independence, the after effects of Partition and the tremendous upheaval in North India and East India. These issues included the communal riots, the refugee problem. Migration and Rehabilitation, administrative matters, matters of national reconstruction the strained relations with Pakistan and the Kashmir Problem and the integration of states. In the period between 15 August 1947 to 31 December Nehru is seen writing to Patel on the issues of the migration of Hindus and Sikhs to India and of some Muslims to Pakistan, in the Punjab alone three million people were displaced, in Delhi tensions had grown as the number of refugees from Punjab poured into the city. These issues included the communal riots, the refugee problem. Migration and Rehabilitation, administrative matters, matters of national reconstruction, the strained relations with Pakistan and the Kashmir Problem and the integration of states problem of accession of the three princely states, Kashmir Junagadh and Hyderabad. I cover these issues in the article.



## **Cognitive Threats to India's Cyber and National Security in the Digital Age**

**Sanjay Kumar**

Independent Researcher; Ex-Indian Army & Intelligence Bureau

### **Abstract:**

Cognitive warfare is reshaping how conflicts are fought today. It marks a new frontier where the battlefield is not territory — but the human mind, where perception, emotion, and trust are being targeted. It involves manipulating public opinion, eroding institutional trust, and distorting national narratives through strategic communication and digital tools. In modern conflict, especially in what's called fifth-generation warfare, psychological and informational attacks are not side shows, they're central. China recognized this shift early. Its “Three Battles” concept — public opinion warfare, psychological pressure, and legal tactics — forms a major part of its military approach. With backing from the Information Support Force (earlier Strategic Support Force) and cyber units such as Unit 61398, China has been working to influence opinion using digital (now integration of AI) tools, legal framing, and selective narrative projection. Though defence strategist and cognitive warfare scholar Colonel Koichiro Takagi (Japan Chair fellow) argues that these cognitive techniques by themselves are not enough to win wars and will only be fruitful when integrated with conventional force. India faces both external and internal challenges in this space. The Burhan Wani episode showed how social media can turn a local militant into a cult figure. At the same time, adversaries have been using what's often called 0.5 front warfare — relying on NGOs, court cases, and selective news coverage to stir internal divisions and slow down national response. The 2020 Mumbai power grid breach (Cyber Attack) also reminded us that today's cyber-attacks have deep psychological consequences. This paper argues that India must begin laying the foundation for a Cognitive Security Doctrine. While dedicated infrastructure is still evolving, the need is clear. This includes:

- Exploring AI-assisted tools to monitor narrative threats
- Setting up policy-level frameworks for strategic communication
- Encouraging public awareness to build early-stage resilience

In cognitive warfare, information is ammunition, and the right bullet must be fired at the right time and place.



## **Increasingly Role of India's Leadership in the Global South in a Multipolar World**

**Dr Prem Chand**

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### **Abstract:**

Today, India is one of the fastest-growing major economies and its credible democratic political set up and a long history of championing the cause of developing nations and aspiring to be a great global power house. Over the decades, India has emerged as a trustworthy and dependable leader of the countries of the Global South. The history shows India's stature and its leadership has been growing as a strong and influential nation on the global stage from one of the founding members of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) to Multi-Alignment with strategic autonomy. Carrying forward this legacy of leadership, India has been repeatedly addressing the ongoing food, fuel, and fertiliser crisis, health, education, technology and investment exacerbated by global conflicts. In addition to this, during COVID 19 India has provided vaccines and medicines to all developing countries. Most importantly, during its presidency of the G20, being the voice of the Global South, India's effort to add the African Union as a full member of the G20 was a great success. Subsequently, India hosted more than one Voice of Global South Summit and has brought all leaders and representatives of various developing countries together to find best solutions in dealing with food and issues of energy security, climate change and equitable regional development. Today, India plays a significant role in bridging between the global north and south. In this context, the paper will explore India's leadership in the Global South in the era of great power rivalry.

*Key words: NAM, Global South, G 20, Strategic Autonomy and India, African Union*





## Reexamining Balance of Power through Quad: India's Role and Vision

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### **Abstract:**

This paper reexamines the classical Balance of Power (BoP) theory through the perspective of 21st-century strategic coalitions, with particular emphasis on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), which includes the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. Traditionally based in realist thinking, BoP theory highlighted military alliances and countervailing power to deter potential hegemons. However, the emergence of China as a systemic contender in the Indo-Pacific has prompted novel forms of balancing that differ from traditional military alliances. Through a critical theoretical analysis, the study investigates how the Quad challenges and reconfigures BoP assumptions by operating as a flexible, informal, and non-binding coalition. This paper explores the Quad as a contemporary example of soft balancing, where India plays a major role by diplomatically, economically, and technologically maintaining regional equilibrium without direct confrontation with China. India plays a critical role in the Quad aiming to maintain stability and address security challenges in the broader Indo-Pacific Region and the Indian Ocean region in particular. This informal coalition challenges traditional Balance of Power theories by integrating normative, economic, and technological aspects. The rise of China has led to new forms of balancing power, distinct from military alliances. This paper explores how India's involvement in the Quad underscores its dedication to strategic stability despite differing threat perceptions and national interests within the group.

*Keywords: Balance of power; QUAD, India, Soft balancing*



## **Imaginings of Viksit Bharat 2047 and policy requisites for urban development**

**Prof. Abhay Prasad Singh**

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### **Abstract:**

Economies world over are at different stages of transition to growth and development. The epoch of late capitalism ushered into dominant multilateralism, consumerism and internationalisation of financial markets leveraged by seamless transfers of technologies and services. The economies with policy reorientations in terms of setting development priorities, according centrality to their system of needs and resources well in tandem with the global economic issue, have shown faster upward mobility in the global value chains. Urban development has played a pivotal role in a commendable transformation of a host of economies. Cities are developing as global hubs of tech companies, trade and services. Economies like US, China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore have remarkably gained by urban development first policies integrating wisely with the domestic and the global imperatives. Imagining of Viksit Bharat 2047 has to be seen as a long term and integrated ('glocal'; integrating local with the global value chain and vice versa, as envisioned by the honourable PM Modi) development policy need in which successive annual financial statements and five year plans should serve as constitutive policy reinforcements. This research paper therefore looks into the possibility of devising a broader prospective policy blueprint for urban development well in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 keeping in mind that the twenty-first century truly becomes India's century in the global economy.

*Key words: Urban development, transformation, global value chain, prospective planning, upward mobility, glocal.*



## **Strategic Autonomy in the Indo-Pacific: India's Evolving Role Amidst US-China Rivalry**

**Ms. Ashna Vinamra Jain**

Assistant Professor, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce  
University of Delhi

### **Abstract:**

The Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the epicenter of 21st-century geopolitical contestation, characterized predominantly by the intensifying rivalry between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Amidst this flux, India's pursuit of strategic autonomy—a cornerstone of its foreign policy—has acquired renewed salience. This paper critically examines how India is navigating the turbulent waters of the Indo-Pacific by asserting an independent strategic identity while simultaneously engaging with like-minded democracies and balancing regional power dynamics. The concept of strategic autonomy, traditionally associated with India's Cold War-era non-alignment, has undergone a transformation in response to contemporary global realignments. This study explores how India operationalizes this doctrine in its Indo-Pacific engagements, particularly in relation to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), its bilateral and trilateral ties with key regional players (including the U.S., Japan, Australia, France, and ASEAN states), and its expanding naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

India's strategic autonomy is neither a passive stance nor an ideological relic. Rather, it is a dynamic and adaptive posture shaped by a realist understanding of power politics. India's reluctance to enter into formal alliances is juxtaposed with its deepening cooperation in Mini lateral frameworks like the QUAD, its participation in multilateral naval exercises such as Malabar, and its Act East and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policies. Furthermore, India's strategic calculus is influenced by the dual challenge of deterring Chinese assertiveness along its land borders and countering its maritime expansionism in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. The paper also highlights the constraints India faces in its quest for strategic autonomy, including resource limitations, infrastructural gaps, asymmetries in military capabilities vis-à-vis China, and domestic political and economic challenges. Additionally, the complex web of dependencies in trade, technology, and critical supply chains necessitates a cautious calibration of its external engagements. The paper argues that India's approach to the Indo-Pacific represents an emergent model of 'multi-alignment with autonomy', wherein India seeks to safeguard its national interests by selectively engaging with various power centres without being subsumed into bipolar geopolitical blocs. As the Indo-Pacific continues to evolve, India's ability to maintain and leverage its strategic autonomy will be a crucial determinant not only of its own security and prosperity but also of the broader regional balance of power.



## **India's Rise as a Global Power: Aspirations, Challenges, and the Road Ahead**

**Shweta**

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**Jyotika Teckchandani**

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### **Abstract:**

India has been making significant strides as a rising global power, driven by economic efforts, military modernization, strategic diplomacy, and technical breakthroughs, all of which contribute to its growth as a global power in the world economy. With initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, the fifth-largest economy in the world is becoming more capable of manufacturing and trading. India's influence in the global arena has grown thanks to alliances like QUAD and BRICS, as well as its leadership in vaccine diplomacy and climate change initiatives. Additionally, India's commitment to sustainable and equitable growth is demonstrated by its partnerships in digital technology, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy. However, challenges, including poor infrastructure, unequal wealth distribution, joblessness, and geopolitical concerns with China and Pakistan, now the relations with South Asian countries impede development. Rapid urbanization and rural development must be balanced, and equal access to opportunities and resources must be guaranteed. Climate change, cybersecurity, the need for energy security, and uncertainty in the domestic and global arena all pose challenges to India's international aspirations. To overcome these challenges, India needs to implement significant policy reforms, invest in state infrastructure, and uphold international relations. Prioritizing digital, increasing innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing governance would further solidify India's position in the world. By taking proactive measures to solve these issues, India might position itself as a significant player in the evolving global order.

This paper examines India's advantages, disadvantages, and the strategic plan required to fulfill its ambitions on a global scale.

*Keywords: - India, Global Ambition, Economy, South Asia, Strategic Diplomacy*



## सरदार पटेल : गांधी असहमति के साथ सहमति

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सार:

सार्वजनिक जीवन में नेताओं के योगदान का मूल्यांकन अनेक दृष्टिकोण से किए जाने का रिवाज रहा है। आजादी के आंदोलन की रणनीतिक समझ के बारे में नेताओं की अलग-अलग राय रही है। अलग-अलग इतिहासकारों ने भी इन सहमति और असहमति के बिंदुओं का विश्लेषण किया है। आम आदमी की राय में एक तरफ पटेल को गांधी का सच्चा समर्पित और अनुयाई के रूप में समझा जाता है वहीं आजादी के बाद नेहरू के हाथ में सत्ता सौंपने के विषय को गांधी और पटेल के बीच असहमति के रूप में भी देखा जाता है। ऐसा निष्कर्ष इन नेताओं के सहचरों के द्वारा व्यक्त किए गए विचारों के ऊपर आधारित है। दरअसल उस समय कांग्रेस जैसे खुले विचारों वाले दल के रूप में मतभिन्नता का होना असामान्य बात नहीं थी। सच में पटेल और गांधी के संबंध भावात्मक, संवेदनशील और देशहित की गहरी समझ के ऊपर आधारित था। वे दोनों राजनीति सत्ता और पद के जंजाल से ऊपर उठकर काम करने वाले व्यक्ति थे। विचारों की स्वतंत्रता के कारण दोनों के बीच कई मुद्दों पर नीतिगत मतभेद था जिसे सार्वजनिक तौर पर सम्मान के साथ दोनों ने स्वीकार किया। नमक सत्याग्रह की जगह बारडोली सत्याग्रह की शुरुआत, 1930 में नेहरू के कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष बनने का सवाल, सविनय अवज्ञा आंदोलन का वापस किया जाना, गांधी जी के द्वारा राजनीतिक विरोध के रूप में उपवास रखना, मुस्लिम लीग और जिन्ना के संबंध, भारत विभाजन के ऊपर राय इत्यादि कई प्रश्न थे जिनपर आपस में सहमति नहीं थी फिर भी दोनों के बीच राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों, आंदोलन की दशा और दिशा तथा राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए मूलभूत निर्णयों के ऊपर एकरूपता दिखाई देती है। पटेल राजनीति में गांधी के यथार्थवाद का प्रतिनिधित्व करते थे। अहिंसा की भूमिका, 1939 में ब्रिटेन का सहयोग, भारतीय राज्यों का गठन, राज्य की सुरक्षा संस्थाओं का निर्माण और उनका चरित्र आदि अनेक ऐसे विषय थे जिन पर दोनों के बीच असहमति खुलकर थी। गांधी के अहिंसा जैसे आदर्श का राज्य के सार्वजनिक जीवन में व्यवहार में किस प्रकार प्रयोग होगा और कितना सफल रहेगा, यह प्रश्न और चिंता दोनों का विषय था। गांधी के विचार में नैतिक सच्चरित्रता के कारण कोई अहिंसा का पालन करेगा जबकि पटेल की समझ में सक्षम और सशक्त राज्य तथा समुन्नत अर्थव्यवस्था के कारण समाज में हिंसा कम होगी।

पटेल को सरदार की पदवी का मिलना एक ऐसा विषय था जिसके कारण पटेल को सख्त, अनुशासित, यथार्थवादी, सबल और एक ऐसे नेता के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है जिसके कारण उनके भीतर की करुणा मानवीयता और संवेदनशीलता का पक्ष थोड़ा धूमिल हो जाता है। पटेल एक वफादार सहयोगी, व्यवहार कुशल और संवेदनशील नेता थे। बेशक वह स्पष्टवादी थे। एक कड़े अनुशासक के रूप में पटेल की प्रतिष्ठा को काफी लोगों ने कांग्रेस के ऊपर अपनी पकड़ मजबूत करने वाले व्यक्ति के रूप में भी प्रचारित किया। 1934 से 1947 तक कांग्रेस आपसी मतभेदों और कोपभाजन का शिकार रही लेकिन संयुक्त परिवार की प्रथा के विरासत में मिलने के कारण पटेल मतभेद को सुलझाने की कला में भी माहिर थे। दरअसल गांधी और पटेल का रास्ता एक ही मंजिल को जाता था और वह था राष्ट्रहित।

**मुख्य शब्द:** सार्वजनिक, प्रतिनिधित्व यथार्थवाद, सच्चरित्रता, संवेदनशील, कोपभाजन



## The way forward for a 'Viksit Bharat@ 2047': Perspectives on policy, reforms and strategies

**Dr. Shyam Sundar Prasad**

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### **Abstract:**

Viksit Bharat@ 2047 is the Government's initiative to achieve the goal and vision of transforming India into a developed country by 2027. In this context, several transformational policy and institutional reforms have been undertaken by the Modi's Government in the last ten years such as Make in India, Start-up India, Digital India Mission, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan etc. to promote sustained, rapid inclusive economic growth across various sectors and address the social and economic well-being of citizens from every section of society. But many policies and reforms are still incomplete and others need to be worked on further with sincerity and futuristic vision. Policymakers and decision makers will have to take short and long term decisions based on targeted benchmarks, results, performances, and better implementation of policies and focus on tackling new and future challenges. The next few years require sustainable and effective policies at the micro and macro levels that empower every Indian, ensure rapid economic growth, inclusive social progress, environmental sustainability, and provide good governance and services.

For this, there is a need to improve and formulate strategies from time to time which can make optimum use of human and government resources. All types of extravagant and ostentatious expenditure must be stopped immediately. Every citizen should get everything according to his ability, need and capacity. Duty, responsibility and accountability of every citizen and employees should be clearly defined. The most important thing is to have zero tolerance towards corruption, terrorism and people with destructive mind-set. Along with this, there should be political long term stability along with patriotism and dedication of all Indian citizens and full will power of all leaders.

We can see a Viksit Bharat in 2047 in an optimistic scenario only when India becomes a high middle income country (UMIC) around 2030 and becomes the third largest country in the next few years, surpassing Japan and Germany. India will reach the technology frontier during 2035-40 and become a high income country (HIC) by 2047. If India's development takes place in a systematic, sequential and target based approach, then certainly India can emerge as a '*New rising developed Bharat*' on completion of 100 years of its independence.

*Key words: Transformative policy, Futuristic vision, UMIC, HIC, New rising developed Bharat,*



## **India's Economic Policy amidst the Changing World Scenario**

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Since Independence, India's economy has evolved to be one of the fast-growing economies of the world. India has always adopted a multidimensional policy framework to adapt itself to the changing global economic dynamics and has achieved the position of being the third largest economy. The transformation from closed economy to be the staunch follower of economic liberalisation and privatisation has made India a global economic player. India has established a robust economic relationship with the major economic players of the world and has achieved a significant position in the global economic diplomacy.

The recent USA led tariff war has emerged as one of the major economic challenges for the world and India is not an exception to it. Moreover, despite the growth and development achieved in the last three and half decades, there are some challenges which are internal and external to the Indian economy that need to be addressed with utmost care for achieving the development goals.

The recent economic policies like Make in India, Skill India, Start-up India and rapid digitalisation of economy etc., are the potential strategies that can be instrumental in transforming the dreams into reality. An effective tariff policy for regulating imports and exports, robust economic partnership with major economies coupled with technological and digital innovations are seen helpful build our economy more resilient in the international economic scenario.

*Keywords: India's economy, global economic diplomacy, robust economic partnership, and tariff policy.*







## India's Strategic and Economic Interests and Prosperity: A way forward for a global power

**Sameer Sagar**

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### **Abstract:**

As it approaches its centenary in 2047, India is at a turning point in its development as a major world power. With its growing population, rapid digitalisation, and solid democratic foundations, India is poised to change the strategic and economic landscape of the world. Apart from outlining India's strategic and economic interest provides a forecast of its prosperity through 2047. The key pillars of India's long-term national strategy include themes of geo-strategic positioning, defence modernisation, regional leadership, economic diversification, technological innovation, sustainable development, and strengthening human capital. India's strategic doctrine addresses threats to internal security through a territoriality lens, focusing on the challenge of separatism and fragmentation. Territoriality, defined as the assertion of control over a defined geographical area, is at the heart of India's national security approach. Historically, this doctrine traces its roots back to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's decisive actions in the post-independence era, which prioritised the integration of the princely states in order to create a united Indian state. Today, India is countering secessionist movements and regional fragmentation through a combination of assertive territorial management, legal reform, intelligence-led operations, and psychological integration. The main measures include, anti-insurgency strategy and the divestment of valuables.

By 2047, the 100th anniversary of India's independence, the nation must aim for comprehensive economic development through a multifaceted, long-term strategy that integrates innovation, sustainability, inclusivity, and rapid growth. India must maintain a strong GDP growth rate of 8-10 percent per year in order to develop into a \$30 trillion economy. Investing heavily in human capital is essential to this vision, as is making sure that everyone has access to high-quality education, developing digital and vocational skills, and offering strong public healthcare. To improve productivity and quality of life, a strong foundation of modern, high-quality infrastructure will be essential. This infrastructure includes smart urban centres, effective transportation systems, and digital connectivity. While MSMEs should be empowered by access to markets, technology, and funding, the manufacturing sector must adapt to Industry 4.0 technologies. In order to achieve net-zero emissions, India must simultaneously make a significant transition to a green economy through the use of green hydrogen, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and circular economy principles. Building solid industry-academia ties and raising RandD investment to at least 2-3 percent of GDP are necessary to become a global innovation leader. Increased inclusion, digital banking, strong capital markets, and fintech integration are all necessary for the financial system to become more integrated. Through crop diversification, effective irrigation, and modern agri-tech, agricultural reforms are crucial to raising farmer incomes and ensuring food security.

*Keywords: Internal security, Separatism, Economic diversification, Sustainable development, Modern infrastructure*



## Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: His Role, Legacy and Vision for the Unity of the Nation

**Bhoomi Sharma**

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### **Abstract:**

The emergence of a confident, strong, and interconnected Bharat is rooted in the visionary pillars laid by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. As the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India, Patel tackled the monumental challenge of political disintegration, integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union through diplomatic finesse and resolute action. He established the State Department and co-founded the All India Services, creating an administrative structure that ensured continuity, neutrality, and coherence in the newly independent country, averting secessionist conflicts in regions like Hyderabad and Junagadh. Patel's belief in a citizen-oriented, meritocratic bureaucracy and his reconciliation of national identity with respect for regional and cultural differences laid the foundations for an aspirational Bharat—one characterized by efficient and inclusive administration. His focus on disciplined bureaucracy and institutional integrity set the stage for future infrastructure expansion and socio-economic progress, enabling India to transition from post-colonial uncertainty to sustained growth. In foreign affairs, Patel advocated a realist foreign policy that prioritized national consolidation and security over idealistic internationalism. He argued that true global influence could only be achieved after internal cohesion, a stance that established the intellectual foundations of India's strategic autonomy. Patel's integrated vision of political integration, administrative efficiency, and realistic accommodation of international power dynamics resonates in modern Bharat. His legacy endures not just in commemorative rituals but in the very institutions and policies that support India's ongoing ascent as an integrated, aspirational, and strategically autonomous nation.

*Keywords: Bharat, administrative structure, citizen-oriented bureaucracy, national identity, regional differences, socio-economic progress, strategic autonomy, non-aligned power and multipolarity.*



## Between Prosperity and Peril: Internal Security and Economic Progress in Jammu and Kashmir

**Ashani Dhar**

Assistant Professor  
University of Delhi

### **Abstract:**

Internal security and economic progress are intricately intertwined, especially in regions marked by strategic sensitivities and complex socio-political dynamics. The state of Jammu and Kashmir presents a unique case within the Indian context, where aspirations for development under *Viksit Bharat* must navigate the challenges posed by long-standing internal and cross-border security concerns. While the region is one of the highest exporters of horticultural products—apples, saffron, walnuts—its economic promise often stands overshadowed by persistent incidents of terrorism and militarization. This paradox raises an essential question: can trade and economic expansion truly flourish in a state where the threat to internal security looms large?

Jammu and Kashmir's economic narrative cannot be separated from its security reality. High incidences of cross-border terrorism, often supported by hostile elements, compel a sustained and intense security presence. While necessary for national integrity and civilian protection, such heavy militarization can also inhibit free movement and deter both tourism and external investments—sectors that hold immense potential for local employment and income generation. Moreover, the perception of insecurity often reinforces stereotypes and distances the region from broader developmental conversations, thereby slowing down its economic integration with the rest of the country.

The issue of whether terrorism in Kashmir is merely an internal security problem is complex. In reality, it sits at the intersection of internal strife and external aggression. Cross-border terrorism does not just strain local law enforcement but also burdens national strategic and economic resources. Furthermore, the cyclical relationship between insecurity and economic stagnation means that each episode of violence resets the development trajectory of the state. The ripple effect includes disrupted education, healthcare access, weakened investor confidence, and stalled tourism.

Trade, when approached as a strategic tool for peace and prosperity, holds the power to transform the region. However, without ensuring a secure environment, its full potential remains unrealized. Thus, internal security is not merely a defensive concern—it is a precondition for economic advancement. As India charts its path towards becoming a developed nation, recognizing and resolving the dual challenges in states like Jammu and Kashmir becomes imperative. Policy approaches that integrate security stabilization with grassroots economic empowerment could help break the deadlock, paving the way for a region that is both peaceful and prosperous.

*Keywords: Internal Security, Jammu and Kashmir, trade, investment, terrorism*



## Economic Pathways to Viksit Bharat 2047: A Strategic Analysis of Growth and Development Trajectories

**Kavita Meena**

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### **Abstract:**

This research investigates the economic contours of India's long-term development agenda as the nation aspires to achieve developed country status by 2047, commemorating a century of independence. The study aims to critically assess the core economic challenges and emerging opportunities that shape the vision of *Viksit Bharat*, with an emphasis on inclusive growth, structural transformation, and sustainability.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates policy analysis with macroeconomic trend evaluation and sectoral performance reviews. Primary data from government documents such as the *Economic Survey of India* (Ministry of Finance, 2023) and NITI Aayog's *Strategy for New India @75* (NITI Aayog, 2018) are examined alongside global datasets from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. India's GDP reached USD 3.73 trillion in 2023, making it the world's fifth-largest economy, with projected growth of 6.6% for FY 2024–25 (Reserve Bank of India, 2024). However, to reach high-income status by 2047, sustained annual growth of at least 7.8% is necessary (World Bank, 2025).

The findings underscore five interdependent pillars crucial for India's economic transformation: investment in human capital, strengthening of industrial and digital infrastructure, balanced regional development, environmental sustainability, and deepening financial inclusion. Notable progress has been made—such as over 52.8 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened, with a majority owned by women and located in rural areas (Times of India, 2024)—but policy gaps and institutional bottlenecks remain, particularly in employment generation and educational outcomes.

In conclusion, while India has made commendable strides in digital and financial inclusion, the journey to *Viksit Bharat* will require sustained and strategic interventions. A future-ready India must prioritize evidence-based policymaking, institutional innovation, and adaptive governance to remain resilient in the face of global disruptions. Bridging regional and sectoral disparities through targeted investments and inclusive reforms will be essential to transforming economic momentum into long-term, equitable prosperity.





## India's "Link West" Policy under the Modi Government: A Geostrategic Realignment

**Dr. Dasharath Kumar**

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### **Abstract:**

*India's "Link West" policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents a strategic reorientation of the country's foreign policy to deepen engagement with West Asia (Middle East), the Gulf region, and beyond. This geostrategic approach emphasizes economic diplomacy, energy security, counterterrorism cooperation, and the promotion of India's diaspora interests. Building upon the earlier "Look West" approach, the "Link West" policy reflects a more proactive and pragmatic foreign policy doctrine that aligns with India's national interests, energy security, economic growth, and diaspora engagement.*

*Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized high-level diplomatic outreach, strategic partnerships, and multifaceted cooperation with key regional powers such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Iran. The region is crucial for India due to its status as a major source of energy imports, home to over eight million Indian expatriates, and a significant trading partner. Moreover, India's involvement in multilateral forums such as I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) and growing cooperation in infrastructure, digital economy, and maritime security reflect a shift towards a more assertive and multidimensional foreign policy. The Link West strategy is also significant in the context of China's growing presence in the region, prompting India to reinforce its strategic autonomy and regional influence. In essence, the Modi government's Link West policy marks a transformative phase in India's westward engagement, characterized by realism, economic diplomacy, and strategic depth. It not only strengthens India's presence in a vital geopolitical corridor but also underscores its emergence as a key actor in shaping regional stability and global multipolarity.*

*Key Words: Geostrategic, Link West, Diaspora, Security, Diplomacy, Cooperation.*



## **India's Intelligence Role in Combating Terrorism: Failure and Reform in Light of the Recent Pahalgam Terrorist Attack.**

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### **Abstract:**

India's national security framework has long grappled with the challenge of terrorism, and effective intelligence is crucial for preempting attacks. The Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22, 2025, in which 26 civilians (mostly tourists) were massacred, has reignited debates on intelligence failures and the need for reform. This article provides a detailed analysis of India's intelligence apparatus in combating terrorism, examining the lapses that led to the Pahalgam attack and comparing them with past failures such as the 2019 Pulwama attack and the 2008 Mumbai (26/11) attacks. We explore issues in preemptive intelligence, why warning signs were missed or unheeded and discuss lessons learned from earlier attacks. A balanced perspective is maintained, acknowledging both the failures that have plagued India's intelligence agencies (like Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)) and the reforms or improvements initiated (such as the creation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the strengthening of multi-agency intelligence sharing, and the push for modernization through databases like NATGRID). In conclusion, the paper underscores the necessity for continued reforms, better coordination among agencies, and accountability to ensure that intelligence is robust enough to prevent future terrorist incidents.

*Keywords - national security, terrorism, Intelligence apparatus etc.*



# **Vision Bharat 2047: A Roadmap for India's Development, National Security, and Global Leadership**

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## **Abstract:**

This paper critically examines the Government of India's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, a developmental blueprint aimed at transforming India into a fully developed nation by the centenary of its independence. Anchored in a qualitative methodological framework, the study combines case study analysis, discourse analysis, and comparative evaluation to explore both the ideological constructs and practical implementations of this national agenda. Drawing from key policy documents—such as the NITI Aayog vision statements, the National Education Policy (2020), and successive Union Budgets—the research unpacks the strategic pillars of economic growth, digital infrastructure, education, sustainability, and inclusive governance. Select state-level case studies, including the Smart City project in Indore, renewable energy initiatives in Tamil Nadu, and skilling programs in Bihar, serve to assess ground-level translation of policy objectives. Furthermore, a comparative lens is applied to development models from countries like China, South Korea, and Singapore to contextualize India's approach within a global framework. Through critical discourse analysis of official speeches and thematic interpretations of expert commentaries, the study interrogates the narrative of Viksit Bharat as both a political project and a developmental paradigm. The paper concludes that while the vision is ambitious and multidimensional, its realisation hinges on sustained political will, institutional coherence, participatory governance, and the ability to reconcile rapid growth with equitable outcomes.

*Keywords: Viksit Bharat, National Development, Policy Innovation, Strategic Vision, Emerging Global Order*



## **India's Internal and External Threats :Emerging Security Environment, Challenges, and Vulnerabilities**

**Kusha sharma**

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### **Abstract:**

India's security environment has grown increasingly complex since 2020, marked by the intersection of traditional military threats and emerging challenges in cyber, political, and economic domains. Externally, India faces strategic tensions with China and Pakistan, characterized by border skirmishes, proxy terrorism, and economic competition, while adapting to shifting global power dynamics and technological vulnerabilities. Internally, India contends with declining but persistent insurgencies in Kashmir, the Northeast, and Naxalite-affected areas, alongside rising communal tensions and socio-economic disparities. Cybersecurity threats, economic dependencies (particularly on China), and internal polarization add layers of vulnerability. While government initiatives such as defense modernization, economic self-reliance programs, and counterinsurgency successes demonstrate resilience, the paper argues that India must further strengthen intelligence capabilities, invest in technological autonomy, promote inclusive governance, and enhance cyber defenses to secure its future stability.

## **The 2025 Pahalgam Terror Attack: Context, Motives, and Implications for India's National Security Strategy**

**Ayush Raj**

Student, Dept. of Political Science, SLC (University of Delhi)

### **Abstract:**

On April 22, 2025, a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, claimed the lives of 26 Hindu pilgrims and injured dozens more, marking one of the deadliest civilian attacks in the region in decades. This research paper presents a detailed, academic examination of the incident, contextualizing Pahalgam's strategic and historical significance and analyzing the methods, motives, and broader implications of the attack. Perpetrated by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the attack was a deliberate strike against civilian tourism and religious pilgrimage, aimed at destabilizing perceptions of security in Kashmir. The paper explores how geographic vulnerabilities, cross-border infiltration, and post-2019 political shifts contributed to the resurgence of militant violence. It further assesses India's evolving counter-terrorism strategies, emphasizing proactive border security measures, intelligence coordination, and the reinforcement of critical infrastructure. The study concludes that while the Pahalgam attack exposed existing security gaps, it also catalyzed significant recalibrations in India's national security policies, with lasting implications for Kashmir's stability and broader regional dynamics.



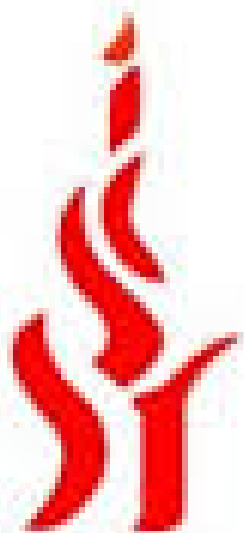








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