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Indian Foreign Policy with Major Powers

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Abstract:

India the country of immense potential and one of the key players in the new world order. India one of the fastest growing economies in the world, a very important country in the supply chain of the world. There are lot of challenges in front of India specially balancing the major powers of world. Indian foreign policy follows the interest of own citizens, citizens interest shapes the foreign policy of India.

India mostly follows the policy of non- aligned to balance the major powers of the world almost since 1947. Now in 21st century Indian foreign policy is facing many challenges including recent Russia- Ukraine war, Chinese aggressive policy, increasing crude oil prices and balancing India's own interest.

Let's look at the relation between India and major powers of the world one by one. In 21st century we consider few countries as major powers of the world that is USA, China, Russia, UK, France, Israel and Japan.

Key words: India, relation, foreign policy, etc.

India – USA relations

India US relation can be said as one of the key relation that will going to be very crucial in 21st century. President Obama had described as “the partnership of the 21st century”. But relation between them is very tricky one since India’s independence. US used Pakistan to put pressure on India that disturbed both countries relation in past decades. After the rise of China the US and India relations have seen positive progress US thinks that with the help of India USA can put pressure on China and remain superpower of the world. Since India- US nuclear deal in 2005 relationship becoming stronger year by year. Under President Trump India and US relation saw tremendous growth in positive direction. President Trump banned all aids that was given to Pakistan by USA that acts as catalyst to develop a strategic relation between both countries. Under Trump India buys many strategic weapons from USA that also gives strength to their relations. We developed a mutual interest in various international issues. Trump had revived Quad (Australia, Japan, India ,US) group that had given a platform to India and US in order to deal with China. China growing power also plays very crucial rule in Indo – US partnership. On dealing with China India and US are on the same page , interest of both countries regarding China is same and it can achieved by both countries partnership . But after Biden become US President the equation between these gets changed. Biden focused on NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and he sees Russia as main enemy of US not China that brought a serious challenge to India- US relations. Russia and India also have a strategic partnerships since decades and in USSR era . India imports majority of its weapons from Russia and after the Ukraine war and high crude oil prices imports of crude oil from Russia hitting record high so its in our interest to have a good relationship with Russia but in this case US puts pressure on India to criticize Russia on Ukraine war and stop importing oil from Russia. Russian issue is bringing again a major challenge in Indo US partnership. The tussle between US and Russia impacted India and US relation negatively. Biden have not much interest in Quad as much as Trump had Biden wants Quad to be limited on Trade, vaccines and climate related issues in the region he has no interest in developing Quad as a military

alliance or at least including some military point in Quad , Quad is the platform that unites India and US against China but weakness of leading to fall in Indo – US relations and benefiting China.

Ukraine – Russia war also impacted India US relations US puts pressure on India along with western countries to criticize Russia and support Ukraine but India remains neutral. We are importing crude oil on discounted price by Russia , because as India we have very less options already US had banned Iran, Venezuela from exporting oil to world. Crude oil price is hitting new high records in order to protect our citizens interest we are importing discounted oil from Russia this need to be understood by US. As India we have a very friendly relationship with Russia since decades but US sees Russia as its biggest threat under Biden administration we are not on same page with US on Ukraine Russia issue. In order to put pressure on India , US gives an offer to Pakistan to upgrade its F16 fighter jets that will hurt India strategically. US uses Pak to put pressure on India but this must be stop if US want a long term good relations with India.

On China front we are on the same page. If US wants a good relationship with India it should focus on Indo - Pacific , Quad group and contain China with India's support. Free and open Indo- Pacific can be done by US and India together.

US needs to understand our interest and should respect also. India- US relation have a very great potential in research and development field, space , education and many power fields.

US is our number one trading partner. We are surplus with US. Under Trump our trade relationship with US suffers but under Biden we have a very good understanding on trade related issues.

In a true sense US- India partnership have a potential to lead the 21st century this can only achieved if we develop a mutual understanding on various topics that effects our relationship.

India- Russia-

Trust and mutual interests are at the base of India's relationship with the former Soviet Union/ Russian federation.

Since USSR India shares a very friendly relationship with Russia. Former USSR helped India in 1971 war when US was against India, after the breakdown of USSR India and Russia redeveloped a good relation. India imported majority of its weapons from Russia from fighter jets to submarine to rifles, even our old weapons are Russian and USSR origin like MIG fighter jets. Russian helps India in United Nations security council whenever needed and support for our permanent seat in UNSC. After the 2013 Russia- Ukraine war the western sanctions hit Russia hard and Russia become dependent on China . Since then Russia and China developed a very strong relationship. Also recent Ukraine war impacted Russian economy negatively. During this war India remains neutral and many times our PM said that this war needs to ended for interest of the world as it became tough for India to remain neutral and not criticize Russia for long time we cannot avoid US and western sanctions these sanctions again pushed Russia more closer to China because doesn't worry about the US and western countries sanctions. If soon Ukraine Russia war not ended then we have to face a stronger pressure of Western countries and US to avoid purchasing Russian weapons and Crude oil. We imported crude oil from Russia on discounted price for our citizens interests. Russian and China relation is a matter of concern in Indo - Russian relation. Russia is almost become dependent to China after the western sanctions during Ukraine war India needs to avoid this situation and do as much as possible to safe Russia from becoming dependent to China. If Russia become dependent on China then automatically they form a alliance which will impact India negatively as we have not a good relations with China and we are mostly depends for our weapons on Russia. The Ukraine- Russia war needs to stop and with dialogue and diplomacy the issues should be addressed and sanctions should be lifted from Russia in order to save Russia economy. Completely

independent Russia is best for India as well as the world. Western world needs to think are they giving help to China and Russia to make alliance for this they are pushing Russia towards China. India must be very careful to stop this dangerous condition. Because Russia and China alliance will dangerous for both India and western world. Russia is our very important partner we cannot afford to lose Russia to China.

India – China—

India and China have a lot in common yet they are as different as chalk and cheese. India and China one of the fastest growing economies of the world with a very bright future and a golden past . Before Communist government came to China we had a very good relationship with them having no war history between India and China before 1962 war. Silk route passes through India. After China become communist we had seen relation going down negatively we fought war in 1962 still we had border issues , right now military standoff is going on in Ladakh. We promote free and open Indo Pacific but China doesn't agree infact they don't use the term Indo – Pacific they use the term Asia- Pacific . China wants to become sole superpower like USA , China knows only India in the Indo- Pacific region can challenge the Chinese supremacy and has potential to stop China. We have very huge trade deficit with China to minimize this we need to promote make in India that will hurt China directly. It is very dangerous that we are very much dependent on China for many products even small things like smartphone because they are very cheap. We need to be in talks with China to manage our huge trade deficit if China doesn't agree then we by our own need to take quick steps to bring down trade deficit and promote make in India. If we hurt China economically then automatically Chinese stops aggression on border. Chinese needs to understand that if they do show aggression on borders then they need to pay a price on border as well as on economic front. China also don't want India to become a permanent UNSC member. One main concern of India is Chinese help to Pakistan , Chinese debt trap pushes Pak to

become dependent on China. China give many strategic weapons to Pak and developed Gwadar port in Pakistan. Also they are helping Pak terrorist in UNSC and protect them to get black listed.

To establish a good relationship with China we need to address border issue first we need to solve border issue with diplomacy and dialogue and develop a mutual trust between both countries. Need to develop a well marked border. China helps Pakistan from defense sector to UNSC. China Pakistan Economic corridor passes through Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir which possess a serious threat to India . China uses Pak against India, that hurts India and China relation. China need to respect India's concern relating Pakistan.

Although China is our second largest trading partner after US but every thing is not good between us. Trade deficit need to come down that will give strength to India – China relations. We need to solve some fundamental issues like border , trade , Pak and other to establish a good relationship. India- China relationships going to play a key role in 21st century.

India and France-

India – France relation is growing day by day in every aspect. France become our top strategic friends. France is strategically very close to India. France helping India in defense sector , space and also helps India in United Nations security council and support for permanent seat in UNSC for India. France support India against Pakistan, France doesn't use Pakistan to put pressure on India. France stops China and Pakistan in UNSC to raise article 370 and Jammu Kashmir issue. France also have a interest in Indo – Pacific region that is really good for India. France become natural ally of India. Indo- France partnership can be very crucial in Indo- Pacific region. We need to explore more fields for cooperation and deepen our partnership more.

India – Israel—

Though India officially recognised Israel in 1950, the two countries established full diplomatic ties only on 29th January 1992. After establishing diplomatic ties in 1992 India – Israel relation become stronger year by year. India in pressure of Arab world avoided Israel that stopped to develop a strategic partnerships stronger. After 2014 India and Israel relation touching new high year by year.

Both share a very warm relationship. Both cooperation in different sectors from agriculture to space to defence a never-ending partnership. Israel cooperation in defence sector is very helpful for India. Agricultural technology used by Israel will help Indian agricultural sector and help Indian farmers grow well we need Israel cooperation in Agricultural sectors. India- Israel partnership is very important for both countries. Israel support us on Jammu and Kashmir issues also supports our permanent seat in UNSC. Without in pressure of Arab world we need to carry forward our strategic relations with Israel that will benefit us in long run.

India and UNSC

India is not a permanent member of UNSC. UNSC has 5 permanent members – USA, China, Russia, France and United Kingdom. India the 5th largest economy of the world and major military power is not the permanent member of UNSC that raises a serious question on UNSC. India should become the permanent member of UNSC. UNSC needs to expanded to add India. UNSC is missing voice of India in world's major issues.

India – UK

UK and India also shares a warm relationship with each other. UK also helps India in UNSC. Free trade agreement in coming future will give more energy to UK – India relation. Free trade agreement will develop a strong trade relationship between them. Currently UK is undergoing a economic slowdown the FTA with India will help UKs economy

India deserves a permanent seat at UNSC all members except China support India's permanent membership at UNSC.

India has a very balanced relation with major powers of the world. That shows the success of India's foreign policy. Except China we have a very warm relationship with other major powers of the world.

India – Japan also have a very warm relation. Japan helps India on various development projects like bullet train and smart city project. Japan and India wants a free and open Indo – Pacific. Japan- Russia relation is a matter of concern for India they have some territorial disputes, this is challenge for India to have a balance between Russia and Japan. India going to be major and responsible power in 21st century.

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