

## 10. India's Foreign Policies and European Countries

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### Abstract

India has formal diplomatic relations with most of the countries. It is the second largest country in the world in terms of population. India is also the country with the largest democratic system in the world and its economy is one of the growing economies of the world. Even in ancient times, India has had commercial, cultural and religious relations with the whole world. With the passage of time, there were many different kings in many parts of India, the nature of India also kept changing, but India's relations on a global scale remained forever. Talking about strategic relations, the specialty of India is that it has never been aggressive. Now, India has maintained cordial relations with most of the countries, since its independence in the year 1947. India has always been active in global forums. Economically, India has influenced the world after 1990. Strategically, India has maintained its power and has been contributing as much as possible to world peace.

The foreign policy of any country is closely related to history. India's foreign policy is also related to history and freedom movement. As a historical legacy, India's foreign policy today encompasses many of the facts that once arose from the Indian independence movement. The idea of peaceful coexistence and world peace is the result of thousands of years old thinking which was presented by thinkers like Mahatma Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi. Similarly, the opposition to the policy of colonialism, imperialism and apartheid in India's foreign policy is the product of the great national movement. The current work aims to focus on Indian policies to maintain the good relationship with European countries.

**Key Words:** India, European countries, policies, history, population, global scenario etc.

### Introduction

India's foreign policy is such that the emphasis is on building good relations with all countries while maintaining global balance. India has recently approved agreements and MoUs with many countries of the world as part of its dynamic foreign policy. These agreements will serve to further expand India's role on the global stage.



### Objectives of India's Foreign Policy

- a. **To safeguard the National Interests:** The first and overarching objective of India's foreign policy—like any other country—is to safeguard its national interests. The scope of "national interests" is quite wide. For example our topics include: safeguarding our borders to protect territorial integrity, countering cross-border terrorism, energy security, food security, cyber security. In short, the first objective is to protect India from traditional and non-traditional threats.
- b. **To Create Good Outdoor Environment:** The second objective is to create an outdoor environment that is conducive to inclusive domestic development. India needs an adequate external inputs in the form of foreign partners, foreign direct investment, transfer of modern technology so that we can develop a world class infrastructure in India, to develop our programs like Make in India, Skills India To be. Digital India, Smart Cities, can be successful, so that we have advanced agriculture and modern defence equipment etc. Additional focus on this aspect of India's foreign policy in recent years has resulted in development diplomacy by integrating economic diplomacy with political diplomacy.
- c. **To Ensure that India's Voice is Heard in Global Forums:** Over the past 72 years, India has grown from a poor developing country to an emerging economy and is now counted as an important global leader. Therefore, the third important objective is to ensure that India's voice is heard in global forums and that India is protected against terrorism, climate change, disarmament, non-discriminatory global trade, reforms of institutions of global governance, which protect India as much as the rest of the world.
- d. **To Provides Strong Link between India and Other Countries:** India has 30 million strong diaspora including NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin, spread across the globe. Over the years it has emerged as a dominant force in the host countries. It provides strong link between India and other countries and can play an important role in strengthening bilateral relations. Hence, this fourth one is an important purpose of Indian foreign policies.

### India-Norway Ocean Dialogue Agreement

Significantly, India and Indonesia have been cooperating in the space sector for more than two decades. ISRO has set up a ground station in Biyak, Indonesia to support Telemetry

Tracking and Command (TTC) for its launch vehicle and satellite missions. Presently this cooperation is being pursued under agency level agreements (ISRO-Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space-LAPAN) signed in 1997 and 2002.

As per the 1997 MoU, the title of the equipment was to be handed over to the LAPAN after 5 years while retaining the right of operation, maintenance and use. In view of this, increasing cooperation at the government level, ISRO and LAPAN signed this agreement for cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

- a. This agreement will promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to the development of the ocean economy. There are several benefits of this agreement, few are given below:
  - i. Norway is a global leader in the ocean economy and has state-of-the-art technology and expertise in areas such as fisheries, hydrocarbons, renewable energy, optimal exploitation of marine resources and maritime transport.
  - ii. This agreement will help in exploitation of hydrocarbons and other marine resources for the mutual benefit of all the stakeholders under the Joint Task Force programme.
  - iii. It will also be easier to create opportunities for cooperation in areas such as port management and tourism development.
  - iv. The agreement will contribute towards achieving the goal of food security by incorporating new technologies in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.
  - v. This will provide a platform for businesses related to profitable ventures between the two countries.
  - vi. As a result, scientists and researchers can also collaborate in the study of ocean ecosystems in the context of the Arctic region.
- b. **India-Finland Biotechnology Agreement:** This MoU has been signed for cooperation on the basis of mutual interest in the field of biotechnology for the implementation and funding of ambitious industry-led innovation and international projects in the broad area of research, development and innovation. The following benefits will be there of this MoU:



- i. The MoU will help establish and strengthen the network for long-term research, development and innovation cooperation and collaboration between Indian and Finnish organizations.
  - ii. The two countries aim to help bring world-class innovation benefits to both countries by funding ambitious joint projects that require high international standards.
  - iii. This will help in knowledge sharing and knowledge creation between the scientists, researchers and industry of both the countries.
  - iv. The following research areas have been identified based on mutual interests:
    - Mission Innovation- Biofuture Platform, Biofuel, Bio Energy, Biomass Based Products
    - Environmental and Energy Applications of Biotechnology
    - Business Development of Start-ups and Progressive Companies
    - Education Technologies and Games in Biology
    - Other areas of the biology industry
  - v. The agreement agreed to promote long-term research and development and innovation cooperation between Finnish and Indian organizations based on mutual interests.
- c. India-Indonesia Outer Space Exploration and Uses Agreement:** This framework agreement will help in space science, exploration of outer space, application of space technology, remote sensing of the earth, operation and maintenance of Integrated Telemetry Tracking and Command (TTC) center set up at Biak, Indonesia. This framework agreement is beneficial for Indian foreign policies as:
- i. It will also help for hosting of Indian ground station, hosting of IRAMS station, launch of LAPAN built satellites.
  - ii. It Will enable cooperation in areas of potential interest such as mutual use of ground stations, etc.
  - iii. The MoU will facilitate setting up of ISRO's TTC Center and IRAMS IRMS Center in Indonesia.
  - iv. This agreement will finalize the implementation of procedures for specific activities.

- v. A Joint Task Force will be set up to achieve the objectives of this Agreement.
  - vi. The task force will include members from Department of Space/ISRO, Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautics and Space.
  - vii. This agreement will further strengthen the cooperation between India and Indonesia.
- d. India-UAE Cooperation Agreement on Development in Africa:** The MoU outlines the framework for cooperation between the two countries to implement development partnership projects and programs in Africa.
- i. This proposal will help in strengthening the political and economic ties between India and African countries and at the same time will serve the wider strategic interests.
  - ii. The MoU was signed in Abu Dhabi last year by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her UAE counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the 12th session of the Bilateral Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation.
  - iii. India-Maldives Agricultural Business Reform Agreement: As a result of this agreement, agricultural census, agricultural business, integrated farming system, irrigation, improved seed, soil health management, research will be encouraged.
  - iv. This agreement will also prove beneficial in capacity building of local agricultural businesses, increasing the knowledge of entrepreneurs in the field of food security and nutrition, developing climate resistant farming systems.
  - v. It will also help in mutual working between the two countries for cooperation in the fields of setting up facilities for testing pesticide precipitates etc.
  - vi. Under the agreement, a Joint Working Group will be set up to prepare a plan for cooperation, to implement the tasks set by the parties and to indicate the implementation of the prescribed activities.
- e. India-Brazil Convention on Cooperation of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy:** The benefits of this MoUs are as:
- i. This MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between India and Brazil in the field of traditional systems of medicine.



- ii. Traditional systems of medicine, including medicinal plants, are well developed in India, which have immense potential in keeping with the global health scenario.
  - iii. Both India and Brazil are rich in biodiversity, with countless health systems based on medicinal plants and a long history of traditional medicine use.
  - iv. Ayurveda, yoga and other traditional systems are also popular in Brazil.
  - v. India and Brazil have a very close and multi-faceted relationship at the bilateral level as well as at the multilateral level such as BRICS, BASIC, G-20, G4 and BSA, as well as multilateral organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization,
- f. **India-Malaysia Company Secretary Cooperation Agreement:** The MoU was signed between the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and the Malaysian Association of Company Secretaries (MACS). ICSI is a statutory body constituted under the Companies Secretaries Act, 1980 passed by the Parliament. The objectives of this agreement are:
- To develop and regulate the profession of Company Secretary in India. MACS, on the other hand, are a body of company secretaries.
  - To improve the prestige and efficiency of company secretaries in Malaysia.
  - To increase the level of practice and respect for Company Secretaries of both the countries.
  - To facilitate better movement of Company Secretaries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- g. **India's election management body agreement with Namibia and Panama:** This agreement has been signed between India and the Election Commission of Namibia (ECN) and the Election Tribunal of Panama (ETP) regarding cooperation in the field of election management and administration. This Memorandum of Understanding contains standard articles and clauses which express a commitment to promote cooperation in the field of election management and administration broadly. Following result will be achieved through this agreement:
- i. These include sharing of knowledge and experience and exchanging information about the organizational and technical development of the election process.
  - ii. Institutional strengthening and capacity building, training of personnel, promotion of regular consultations etc. are also included in the objectives of the agreement.



- iii. This MoU will promote bilateral cooperation. Its goal is to build technical support/capacity for ECN and ETP.

Under this agreement, the Election Commission of India promotes cooperation in election-related matters and electoral processes worldwide through agreements with certain countries and agencies. The Election Commission in India is a constitutional body that conducts the largest elections in the world. It is the responsibility of the Election Commission to organize free and fair elections in a country of about 85 crore voters with different socio-political and economic backgrounds. The success of democracy in India has attracted the attention of almost every political system around the world. In order to achieve excellence, the Election Commission of India receives proposals from foreign election bodies to establish bilateral relations in elections and related matters.

- h. India-Uzbekistan e-Governance Bilateral Cooperation Agreement:** The objectives of this agreement include cooperation in the field of e-governance and promotion of IT education, introduction and implementation of e-governance products/tools in various sectors and development of data centers etc. One of the major functions of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India is to promote international cooperation in emerging areas of Information Communication Technology (ICT) under bilateral and regional networks. The Ministry has entered into agreements with agencies of various countries to encourage exchange of information in the identified areas.
- i. India-Ukraine Agriculture and Food Industry Cooperation Agreement :** The agreement emphasizes on increasing cooperation in various areas of agriculture and food industry. The benefits of this agreements will be as:
- j.** Under this, a joint working group consisting of representatives of both the countries will be formed.
- k.** The Working Group will deliberate and formulate a plan to enhance cooperation in selected areas and monitor the implementation of the tasks set by both sides.

Meetings of this Working Group will be held alternately in India and Ukraine at least every two years. This Agreement shall be in force for a period of five years and may be automatically extended for a further period of five years.

### Conclusion

Thus, We are living in a global world where India's foreign policy is poised to be proactive, flexible and pragmatic so as to make quick adjustments to meet emerging situations.

However, in the implementation of its foreign policy, India invariably follows the basic principles on which no compromise is made. Strategic objectives and geographical directions of the foreign policies of different countries broadly define the framework of international dialogue. Nevertheless, the foreign policy of all countries keeps on changing from time to time. Apart from this, foreign policy is also fine-tuned according to domestic constraints and the possibilities and capabilities of global connectivity. In the last five years, India's foreign policy has also undergone many major changes so that the national interests can be best served according to the perception of the then government.

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