

PERCEPTION REGARDING ROLE OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN MAKING 5 TRILLION ECONOMY

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Abstract

In modern day role of foreign policy is critical in success of economic development of country due to global and liberalized economy. Past decade has seen change in foreign policy during critical challenging times. India's foreign policy is playing pivotal role in laying down foundation for 'Viksit Bharat'. Whether we talk about sending vaccines under 'Vaccine Maitri' program, running operations to evacuate citizens of the country from tensed war areas, hosting G20 presidency along with consensus on joint declaration on first day of the event or improvising relations with underdeveloped or developing countries. Recent interim budget speech also talked about changing world order in turbulent times after pandemic. World is facing challenges of high inflation, high interest rates, low growth and high public debt. India has successfully navigated its way. The paradigm shift in foreign policy due to active decision making can be clearly observed during abrogation of article 370 of Indian constitution or release of group captain Abhinandan Vardhman who was held captive in Pakistan for 60 hours. Significant development in visa norms of various countries to other benefits received by Indian diaspora in various countries is also an outcome of our foreign policy. It is essential to note, when India is aiming to attain 5 trillion economy status and 3rd largest economy in next few years, foreign policy will be critical in achieving these feet.

Keywords: International trade, foreign policy, 5 trillion economy

INTRODUCTION

We are living in 'Amrit Kaal' as pointed out by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Modi. There have been several challenges in the way ahead to achieve 5 trillion economy status. It is essential to work in tandem with global economy to achieve the status. It is not possible without having image of 'Vishwa Mitra'. It is very evident that foreign policy & our global credibility has played crucial role in success of India. Starting from maintaining relations with Iran during sanctions imposed by USA to purchasing oil from Russia during critical global equation it is evident that we are able to set up tone for world order. Purchasing sunflower oil amidst of Russia- Ukraine war from South American countries and ensuring that there is no scarcity of the same in domestic market talks volume about proactive strategic planning of government on foreign front. FDI approach of the government in terms of **First Develop India** in global context along with Make in India initiative is giving results today, ensuring all big MNC's looking forward to start manufacturing in India. The foreign policy of our country is based on two important pillars i.e. the personal chemistry of Hon'ble Prime Minister with other global leaders along with functioning with clear objectives and firm instructions. One can understand the working of this pattern in various cases i.e. Operation Dost is a classic example, when Turkey faced severe earthquake. India wasted no time to extend supporting hand in difficult times leaving lasting impression of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**'. Despite Turkey opposing abrogation of Article 370 from Indian constitution India gave priority to humanitarian approach. This will enhance the goodwill and creditability of New India across the globe. Recent issue pertaining to derogatory remarks from some ministers of Maldives was dealt with diplomatically without uttering single word. It proves our policy is sound enough to handle various situations. One should always note that there no fixed formula while dealing at global level. One can't ignore the role of foreign policy in the years to come, as it will play pivotal role in 'Viksit Bharat'. It will not only ensure India attains 5 trillion economy status but also ensure blue print for India to be world leader.

OBJECTIVE

- To study awareness about role of foreign policy of India in making \$5 trillion economy.
- To study people's perception about India's foreign policy.
- To study and analyze the perception of people regarding role India-US relationship and India – Middle East Europe Corridor

METHODOLOGY

- During the detailed study, received primary data from 46 respondents residing in different parts of Mumbai city through google forms survey.
- The sources of secondary data contain data from various research work conducted by various people & various websites.

LIMITATION OF STUDY

- The study mostly depends upon the availability of true and adequate data provided by the respondents.
- Foreign policy perception depends on the information known to the respondents along with subject to political opinion and bias along with the time constraints.

HYPOTHESIS

H₀ : There is no significant difference between different age group and perception towards highlight of India's foreign policy 2014-23. (w.r.t India- US relationship and India- Middle East Europe Corridor)

H_a : There is significant difference between different age group and perception towards highlight of India's foreign policy 2014-23. (w.r.t India- US relationship and India- Middle East Europe Corridor)

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

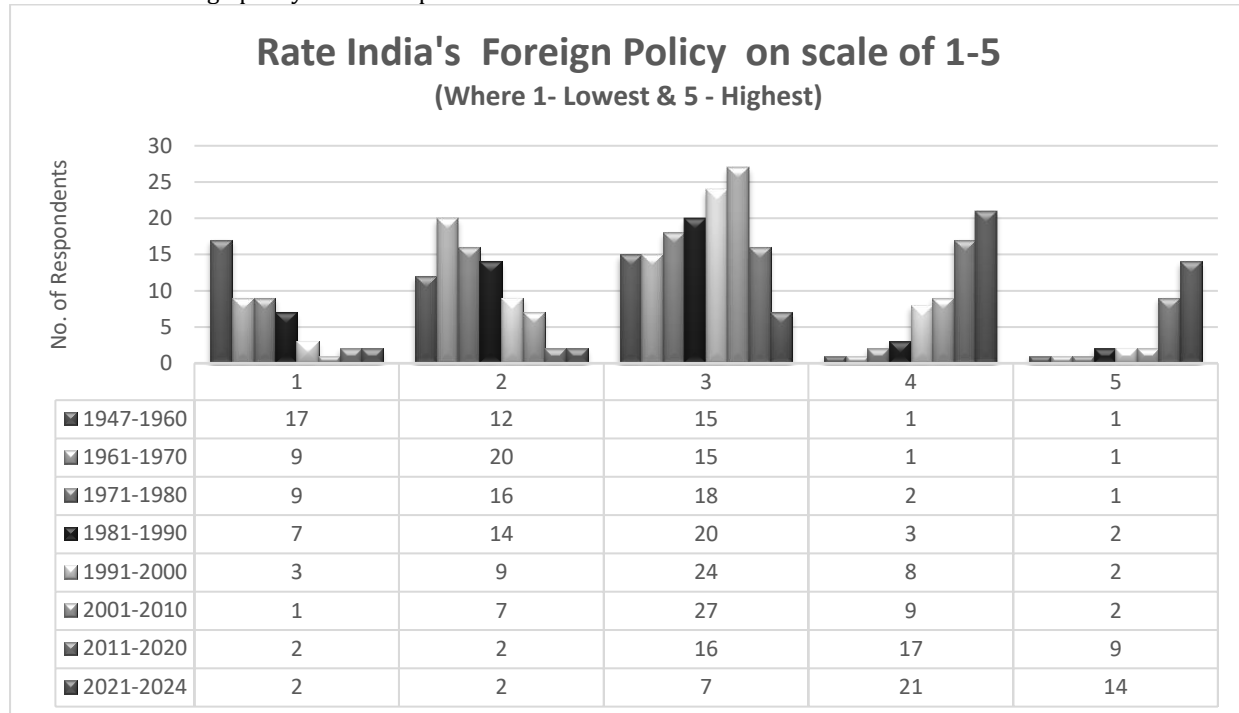
- **Somya Saran (2021)**: The paper extensively tries to evaluate possibilities of India being 5 trillion economy till 2025. Government works extensively through various projects that will benefit the country. It is based on various articles in journals and magazines. It covered aspects pertaining to role of pandemic in affecting road ahead. It is essential to note that study on 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' will boost manufacturing sector which will attract MNC's to India. One can understand foreign policy will play important role in attracting MNC's to invest in India.
- **Rajesh Basrur (2017)**: The major factor contributing to the success of India's foreign policy in last few years is continuity of policy with reverence to use of power, range of security relationships and quest of status. Observation clearly stated that no alterations were made with reference to major powers. It has worked on international politics at bilateral or multilateral levels. It is important to note it has benefited the country at economic, defense and strategic levels across the globe.
- **Shivshankar Menon (2020)**: At present, India should focus its efforts on strengthening itself, consolidating its edge and external balancing. The foreign policy will need to adjust to new economic challenges in the time to come. The book covers extensive evaluation of India's foreign policy since independence and continuity with hint of touch by all leaders of their own to countries advantage. It also highlights importance of being hopeful in such times. Since independence, country is better placed at global level and has capabilities than ever before.
- **S. Jaishankar (2024)**: India has moved out of defensive non-aligned stance engaging with different nations on wide array of problems with equal assurance. It is drawing strength from its legacy and ethos. We are able to define our own interest and take our own stance to find own resolutions and create its own model.

VIEWS ON THE TOPIC

India's foreign policy has seen various highs and lows during numerous occasions. From facing sanctions of USA during 1999 after nuclear tests in Pokhran range to making nuclear deal with USA in March, 2006 India had covered long distance. Our mission to climb higher on the global ladder is a continuous process. It is necessary to discuss about QUAD membership and India Middle-East Europe Corridor as key developments in last decade. QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) a strategic security dialogue involving Australia, India, Japan and USA established in 2007 but was ceased in 2008. In 2017, all the member nation leaders felt the necessity to initiate the process in changing cold war scenario. It is important for maintaining peace at Indo Pacific region along with conducting joint naval exercises in the region. It was necessary to revive the alliance to counter China's military and diplomatic rise in Indo Pacific region. India Middle- East Europe Corridor is another ambitious project. In

the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister this corridor, "will become the basis of world trade for hundreds of years to come and history will remember that this corridor was initiated on Indian soil." It is planned that corridor is aiming to boost economic development by promoting connectivity and economic integration. It is aimed with connecting Asia, Europe and Gulf countries providing cost effective network of ship to rail network. It was necessary to counter Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project by China. It will help to counterbalance China's economic and political influence. It's impact can be understood from Italy's exit from BRI who immediately joined as founder member to India Middle-East Europe Corridor.

The study pertaining to India's foreign policy is incomplete without understanding overall view of respondents about India's foreign policy since independence.



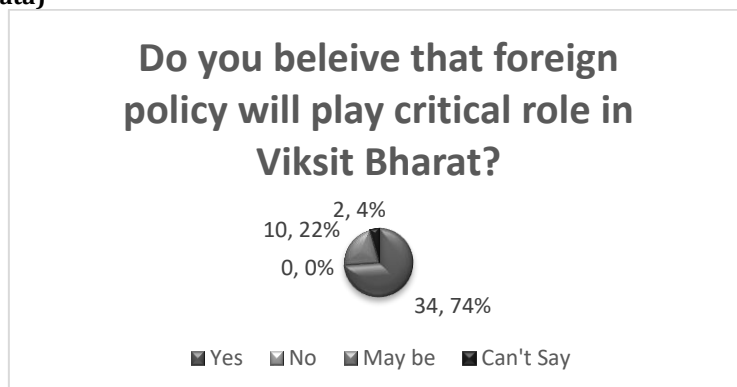
(Compiled from Primary Data)

There was shift in the view of respondents with regards to India's foreign policy. It is necessary to note majority respondents rated India's foreign policy on scale of 3 since independence till 2010. Shift can be seen in perception on scale after 2011 till 2024 towards scale of 4 and 5. It gives a fair idea about respondents are able to see changing stance of India's foreign policy on the positive note. It is also important to understand respondents' perception towards role of foreign policy in 'Viksit Bharat' along with attaining 5 trillion economy.

Table 1: Perception of respondents pertaining to role of Foreign Policy in Viksit Bharat

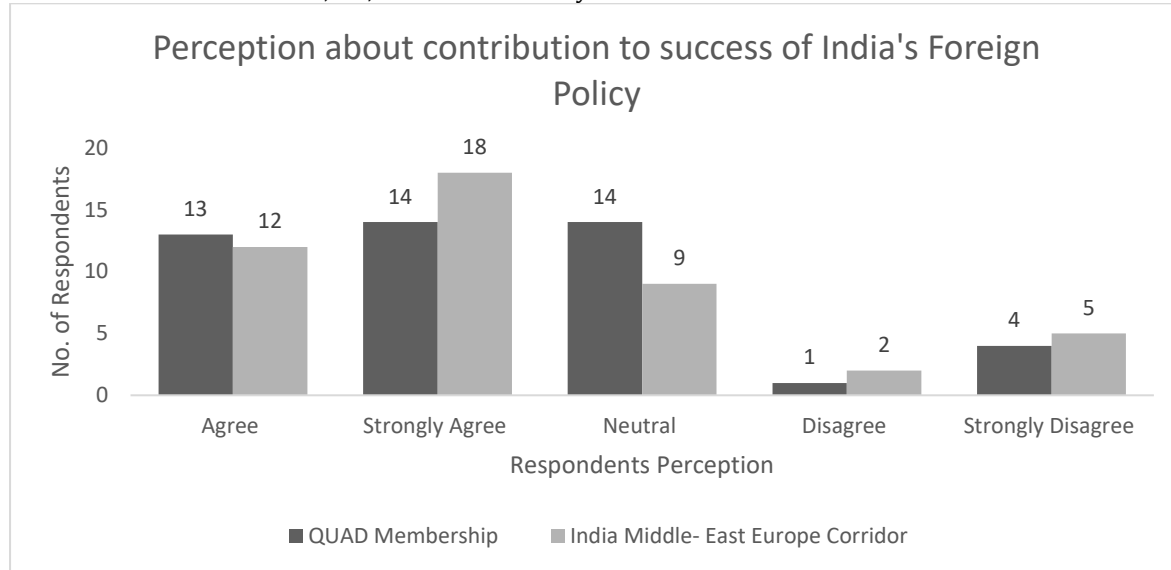
Options	No. of Respondents
Yes	34
No	00
May be	10
Can't Say	2
Total:	46

(Source: Primary Data)



(Compiled from Primary Data)

It was very important to understand whether respondents believe that foreign policy will play a critical role in 'Viksit Bharat'. It was observed that 34 respondents believed that it will play important role, where only 10 respondents were not sure about the role of foreign policy. QUAD membership and India Middle- East Europe Corridor is a major move to control increasing influence of China in Asian as well as Indo Pacific region. China's expanding territory policy combined with debt trap diplomacy is concerning factor for neighboring countries as well as for countries like USA, UK, Australia and many more.



(Compiled from Primary Data)

While conducting survey, majority of respondents were between age group of 31-45 years of age group. Whereas, only 2 respondents were of 60 years & above participated in the survey. When asked about the perception pertaining to role of QUAD membership and India Middle-East Corridor in success of India's foreign policy it was apparent that majority of respondents were of the opinion that both moves are contributing positively towards India's foreign policy.

Mauchly's Test of Sphericity

Mauchly's W	Chi-Square	df	p	Greenhouse-Geisser ϵ	Huynh-Feldt ϵ
0.99	0.33	2	.847	0.99	1.04

(Source: Compiled from Primary Source)

It was observed on the basis of primary data majority of respondents of age group of 31-45 were of strong opinion that QUAD membership and India Middle- East Europe Corridor will benefit the country. Approximately 14 respondents were having neutral opinion about QUAD membership and 9 respondents were having neutral opinion pertaining to India Middle- East Europe Corridor.

Repeated Measures of ANOVA:

	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Squares	F	p	η^2
Treatment	19.09	2	9.54	9.05	<.001	0.17
Residual	94.91	90	1.05			

(Source: Compiled from Primary Source)

A one-factor analysis of variance with repeated measures showed that there was a significant difference between the variables, $F = 9.05$, $p = <.001$. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. It also suggests that alternative hypothesis stands accepted, that there is a significant difference between age group and perception towards highlight of India's foreign policy 2014-23. (w.r.t India- US relationship and India- Middle East Europe Corridor).

CONCLUSION

Success of economy is not dependent on a single factor. Journey of 5 trillion economy is a process of combined factors like Infrastructure development, employment generation, strengthening of macro-economic factors, performance of stock markets, inflow of FDI and many more. It is important to note that multiple factors play critical role in economic development and success of any economy. While conducting the study it was observed

that inevitable impact of foreign policy on economic success and development was ignored to an extent. The study is an attempt to understand how strategies and decisions of foreign policy can benefit economy and what is perception of people relating to the same. The study also aims to give brief outlook about how geopolitical economic and security concerns can be tackled with diplomacy. QUAD and India Middle- East Europe Corridor will turn out to be a game changer in the time to come. India's foreign policy has gone through huge transformation and has played vital role in the journey of 5 trillion economy status. One can clearly say that India that is now more of Bharat.

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