



TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY 2014 TO 2024

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ABSTRACT

Between 2014 and 2024, India's foreign policy experienced a dramatic change driven by a rapidly shifting global order, changing national goals, and new geopolitical realities. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction, a more assertive, strategically independent, and interest-driven diplomatic framework was solidified over this decade. The change from "Look East" to "Act East," the revitalization of relations with the United States, the expansion of involvement in the Indo-Pacific, the fortification of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), and a renewed focus on the Global South were among the major trends. Through programs like "Neighbourhood First," India's neighbourhood diplomacy aimed to increase economic integration, security cooperation, and regional connectivity. However, it also had to deal with issues like border tensions, Pakistan-centric security concerns, and China's strategic rise. Key foreign policy instruments include energy security, digital collaborations, diaspora participation, economic diplomacy, and climate negotiations. But India also faced a number of difficulties, such as managing reputational perceptions in relation to domestic political events, navigating the Russia-Ukraine conflict, opposing China's Belt and Road Initiative, responding to global supply-chain disruptions, and striking a balance with rival global powers. However, these difficulties also brought about new opportunities, including strategic technology cooperation, leadership in multilateral forums like the G20, the growth of defence alliances, a renewed emphasis on the Indian Ocean Region, and India's ascent as a responsible voice of emerging countries. All things considered, India's foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 shows a complex interaction between resiliency, ambition, and pragmatism, establishing the nation as a rising global force influencing a multipolar international order.

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1. Introduction

A pivotal period in India's diplomatic development, the years 2014-2024 saw a change from cautious participation to proactive global leadership in the country's foreign policy. A more assured strategic identity was articulated over the decade as a result of shifting global power dynamics, economic ambitions, domestic political consolidation, and technological advancements [1-2]. Significant global political upheavals also occurred during this time, including the resurgence of great-power competition, the Ukraine crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising U.S.- China rivalry, supply-chain realignment, energy insecurity, and climate negotiations [3]. As a result, India was forced to reevaluate its foreign policy priorities and tools. Although strategic autonomy was still a fundamental principle, its operational manifestation changed from non-alignment to multi-alignment, allowing India to forge closer ties with rival nations like the US, Russia, and the EU at the same time [4-5]. Through the "Neighbourhood First" policy, which prioritizes connectivity, trade, humanitarian aid, and regional security cooperation, India bolstered its neighbourhood diplomacy. However, India's capacity to influence its immediate strategic environment was put to the test by geopolitical concerns, such as cross-border terrorism, political unrest in South Asia, and China's expanding military and economic influence [6]. With the help of alliances like QUAD and ASEAN, the Modi administration's shift from "Look East" to "Act East" further emphasized maritime, infrastructure, and commercial ties with Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific (Hall, 2019). A key component of maintaining maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region and countering China's assertiveness was India's Indo-Pacific vision, which is built on openness, inclusion, and rules-based order [7]. Additionally, economic diplomacy rose to unparalleled prominence. In line with its growing economic aspirations, India gave priority to strategic technological collaborations, energy diversification, international investment, digital cooperation, and defence manufacture (Chaudhuri, 2022). India simultaneously increased its soft-power influence, particularly in the Global South, by utilizing its international diaspora, cultural diplomacy, strategic communications, and developmental collaborations [8]. The nation's leadership during the 2023 G20 chair represented its growing role as a champion for fair global governance reforms and as a link between rich and developing countries [9]. Notwithstanding these developments, India's foreign policy nevertheless had to contend with a number of difficult issues, including border disputes with China, tense relations with Pakistan, humanitarian problems in neighbouring nations, climatic vulnerabilities, fractured multilateralism, and normative scrutiny of domestic politics [10]. However, these limitations also brought up diplomatic possibilities, which allowed India to enhance its regional influence, fortify defence cooperation, diversify strategic partnerships, and advance a multipolar international system that suited its interests. As a result, the years 2014 to 2024 show a foreign policy characterized by pragmatism, resiliency, strategic innovation, and global ambition-positioning India as an essential participant in 21st-century international politics rather than just a regional actor.

2. Research Questions:

- How has India's foreign policy evolved between 2014 and 2024 in terms of strategic autonomy, regional outreach, and global engagement?
- How have major challenges-such as border tensions, great-power rivalry, and global geopolitical disruptions shaped India's foreign policy behaviour during this period?
 - To what extent has India leveraged emerging opportunities in the Indo-Pacific, multilateral institutions, economic diplomacy, and technology partnerships to enhance its global standing?
 - What policy strategies are necessary for India to sustain strategic autonomy and strengthen its role in an evolving multipolar international order?

3. Objectives:

- To examine the major trends that shaped India's foreign policy between 2014 and 2024, with special focus on strategic autonomy, regional outreach, and global engagement.
- To analyse the key challenges India encountered in this decade-such as border tensions, great-power rivalry, and geopolitical disruptions and their impact on foreign policy choices.
 - To identify the new opportunities that emerged for India in areas like the Indo-Pacific, multilateral

leadership, economic diplomacy, and technology partnerships.

d. To assess the future policy directions required for India to strengthen its global role while safeguarding national interests in an evolving multipolar world.

4. Historical Context and theoretical foundations:

India's historical experiences, civilizational identity, and strategic culture all play a significant role in the development of its foreign policy. It is necessary to place the 2014-2024 timeframe within the larger framework of India's diplomatic evolution since independence in order to comprehend it. Following 1947, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru established a foreign policy that reflected liberal and idealist traditions in international relations theory and was founded on non-alignment, anti-colonial solidarity, peaceful coexistence, and moral internationalism. In a bipolar Cold War setting, India prioritized world peace, self-reliance, and sovereignty over formal alliance arrangements in order to achieve autonomy [11-12]. This approach established "strategic autonomy" as a fundamental national value and influenced India's foreign policy for many years [13].

Neoliberal institutionalism was evident in India's shift toward economic liberalization and practical strategic engagement after the end of the Cold War. A move toward interest-driven cooperation bolstered by global economic interdependence was indicated by improved ties with the United States, market-led diplomacy, increasing regionalism, and greater multilateral engagement [14-15]. At the same time, military modernization and geopolitical balance were reinforced by structural realism forces, especially nuclearization, border tensions, and security competition with China and Pakistan [16].

Constructivist conceptions of Indian foreign policy, which prioritized soft power, cultural diplomacy, national identity, and civilizational narratives as diplomatic instruments, became more popular by the early 21st century [17]. Identity-based diplomacy combined with strategic objectives was demonstrated by India's leadership in the Global South, advocacy for climate justice, and involvement with the diaspora [18]. These historical layers came together with shifting global power dynamics throughout the 2014-2024 decade. By reinterpreting traditional strategic autonomy into a philosophy of "multi-alignment," the Modi administration allowed India to maintain its independence in making decisions while concurrently collaborating with rival powers including the United States, Russia, Europe, and Japan [19]. China's aggression, border disputes, increasing naval presence in the Indian Ocean, and the Belt and Road Initiative heightened realist concerns and pushed India toward the Indo-Pacific and QUAD frameworks. Through international leadership, technology collaborations, economic diplomacy, and climate talks, liberal institutionalism remained relevant, especially during India's G20 presidency. As India positioned itself as a leading voice for developing nations and a civilizational state, constructivist aspects also became more prominent.

As a result, India's foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 represents a theoretically hybrid and historically layered approach, where traditional ideas of sovereignty, autonomy, and global responsibility collide with constructivism, liberalism, and realism. The decade marks a change from reactive diplomacy to forceful international participation based on strategic adaptation and historical continuity [20].

5. Major trends from 2014 to 2024

India's foreign policy showed a clear trend toward geopolitical assertiveness, strategic diversification, and proactive international involvement between 2014 and 2024. The international system underwent significant changes during the decade, including the emergence of multipolarity, the development of China, technological competition, the COVID-19 pandemic, and conflicts like the war between Russia and Ukraine. India responded by redefining security goals, extending the reach of economic diplomacy, fortifying regional and international alliances, and adjusting diplomatic tools [21-22]. A confident and interest-centric approach that prioritized sovereignty, geopolitical significance, and aspirations for global leadership replaced earlier risk-averse diplomacy during this time. This change was influenced by three key trends: a move toward Indo-Pacific maritime security, strategic multi-alignment, and a resurgence of leadership in the Global South and on international platforms [23-24].

5.1 Strategic Multi-alignment

The development of strategic multi-alignment, a flexible diplomatic approach that avoids exclusive

alliances while nurturing numerous, issue-based partnerships, was one of the most distinctive aspects of India's foreign policy throughout this decade. In contrast to non-alignment during the Cold War, multi-alignment is a practical response to multipolar geopolitics, enabling India to forge closer ties with rival nations like the US, Russia, Japan, the EU, and West Asian nations all at the same time [25]. This diversification is seen in strengthened defence cooperation agreements, joint military drills, technology alliances, and energy investments. For instance, in spite of criticism from the West during the conflict in Ukraine, India maintained long-standing defence and energy ties with Russia while growing the strategic alliance between the United States and India. In a similar vein, India used economic complementarities and diaspora influence to balance its relationship with Israel and the Arab Gulf countries. This strategy positioned India as a bridge-builder in international geopolitics, improved its strategic autonomy, and gave it more negotiating leverage in multilateral talks [26-27].

5.2 Indo-Pacific and Maritime Security Focus

India's emphasis on the Indo-Pacific area was another notable development, motivated by worries about China's growing influence, military might, and territorial aggression through the Belt and Road Initiative. With an emphasis on openness, rules-based order, freedom of navigation, and maritime connectivity, the Modi administration established the Indo-Pacific as a pillar of Indian foreign policy [28]. Maritime engagement was reinforced by programs like the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) philosophy, the Sagarmala coastal infrastructure program, and the QUAD cooperation with the United States, Japan, and Australia. Through humanitarian aid, anti-piracy operations, port development, and defence cooperation agreements with nations in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Indian Ocean littoral, India also increased its maritime diplomacy. India's understanding that sea-based strategic assets are becoming more and more important for economic security, trade connectivity, and geopolitical influence is reflected in this marine orientation [29].



5.3 Global South Leadership and Multilateralism (e.g., G20, BRICS)

India's continued attempt to establish itself as a prominent voice of the Global South, grounded in its longstanding involvement with post-colonial solidarity and developmental diplomacy, was a third

significant trend. In order to increase its credibility with developing countries, India placed a strong emphasis on equality in climate negotiations, vaccine diplomacy during COVID-19, debt relief advocacy, and technological democratization [30].

India's goals for inclusive global governance were demonstrated during its 2023 G20 Presidency, which focused on topics such development financing, digital public goods, sustainability, and global health. At the same time, India had a significant impact on the growth and transformation of organizations like the UN General Assembly, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and BRICS. India was able to promote multipolarity, reform of the UN Security Council, and a more representative global economic structure because to these forums. India increased its soft-power appeal and international credibility through capacity-building aid, educational exchanges, cultural diplomacy, developmental alliances, and concessional financing. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrated a fusion of strategic ambition with normative leadership, enhancing India's position as a global actor that promotes stability and consensus.

Table 1: Major Trends in India's Foreign Policy (2014-2024)

Trend/Policy Shift	Description	Strategic Outcome
Assertive & Interest-Driven Diplomacy	Foreign policy aligned with national economic and security priorities	Enhanced strategic autonomy & global visibility
Transition from "Look East" to "Act East"	Greater political, economic & security engagement with Southeast Asia	Stronger Indo-Pacific presence & regional partnerships
Strengthened Ties with the U.S.	Expansion in defence, technology, and trade cooperation	Consolidation of democratic strategic partnerships
Indo-Pacific Engagement	Advocacy for a free, open, and rules-based maritime order	Counterbalance to China & QUAD institutionalisation
QUAD Revitalization	Collaboration with U.S., Japan & Australia	Joint defence exercises, tech cooperation, maritime security
Global South Leadership	Greater engagement with developing and emerging nations	India positioned as spokesperson of developing world
Neighbourhood First Policy	Priority to South Asian regional diplomacy	Increase in connectivity, development & crisis support
Economic & Digital Diplomacy	Use of trade, FDI, fintech, digital public goods	Global partnerships in innovation & digital governance
Climate Leadership	Advocacy for climate justice, renewable energy, ISA	Global recognition in sustainability diplomacy

6. Regional and Bilateral Engagements:

India's foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 showed increased regional diplomacy and a variety of bilateral alliances motivated by geopolitical, technological, economic, and security factors. The government's "Neighbourhood First" strategy put South Asia at the centre of diplomatic relations, with India providing development aid, energy cooperation, connectivity projects, support for disaster relief, and capacity-building initiatives to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives [31–32].

By opposing China's growing influence through the Belt and Road Initiative, these initiatives sought to strengthen India's position as a stabilizing regional factor. Through the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement, river-water management, trade growth, and counterterrorism collaboration, India and Bangladesh's strategic partnership was reinforced. Relationships with Nepal and Sri Lanka were occasionally hampered by political changes, constitutional disputes, and debt issues, but India persisted in pursuing humanitarian, cultural, and infrastructure diplomacy [33–34].

With stalled talks, cross-border terrorism, and increased tensions after the Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019) attacks, Pakistan continued to be a chronic regional challenge. India refocused its policy against Pakistan on worldwide advocacy against terrorism, security deterrence, and diplomatic isolation. On the other hand, India's relationship with Bhutan, which has grown to include collaboration in digital governance, education, and hydropower, continues to be one of its most

reliable regional partnerships. To get around SAARC's restrictions, India also increased its participation in regional organizations like BIMSTEC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association. [35] India prioritized great power ties outside of South Asia in order to achieve strategic autonomy. Defence agreements (LEMOA, COMCASA, and BECA), QUAD collaboration, technology transfer regimes, and increasing trade and investment flows all contributed to the strengthening of ties with the United States. Despite changing global alliances, particularly during the conflict in Ukraine, India's long-standing partnership with Russia endured thanks to defence purchases, energy imports, and multilateral cooperation in the BRICS and SCO [36]. Through discussions on trade agreements, climate cooperation, digital regulatory frameworks, and green energy transitions, India's relationship with the EU grew [37].

As a result of the Indo-Pacific being a major diplomatic hub, ties with South Korea, Japan, Australia, and ASEAN nations were improved. While Australia-India relations grew through resource cooperation, education mobility, and defence exercises, Japan continued to be a vital partner in infrastructure, maritime security, and technology. India's "Act East Policy," which prioritized connectivity, supply-chain resilience, and marine cooperation, strengthened ties with Southeast Asia [38].

Strategic multifaceted alliances replaced transactional energy reliance in interactions with West Asian and Gulf nations. While balancing relations with Iran and Israel, India strengthened connections with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar through diaspora security, investment flows, counterterrorism cooperation, renewable energy, and defence cooperation. Through capacity-building programs, digital public goods collaboration, development finance, and health diplomacy, Africa became an increasingly important priority within the scope of the India-Africa Forum Summit [39].

This decade, India has strategically combined geography, security, economic opportunity, political pragmatism, and normative leadership in its bilateral and regional diplomacy. In a competitive multipolar system, the strategy reflects India's desire for a stable neighbourhood, varied alliances, and increased global influence [40].

7. Key Challenges

Between 2014 and 2024, India's foreign policy faced numerous structural, geopolitical, economic, and security problems that influenced strategic decision-making, despite tremendous diplomatic momentum. These limitations resulted from changing power dynamics, waning multilateral efficacy, internal political changes in neighbouring states, and outside shocks like the COVID-19 epidemic and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. It was necessary to strike a balance between aggressiveness and restraint, autonomy and cooperation, and national security and international economic interdependence in order to manage these complicated challenges [41-42]. Throughout this decade, India's foreign policy framework was continuously put to the test by three main issues: growing global economic uncertainty, regional instability and terrorism, and border tensions with China [43-44].

Table 2: Key Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities (2014–2024)

Category	Challenges	Opportunities
Regional Security	India-China border tensions; Pakistan-sponsored terrorism	Strengthened defence capabilities & regional alliances
Geopolitics	Navigating U.S.- China rivalry & Russia-Ukraine conflict	Strategic balancing & multipolar diplomacy leadership
Economic Diplomacy	Global supply-chain disruptions & trade volatility	Positioning as manufacturing, logistics & innovation hub
Strategic Competition	Opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)	Promotion of India-led connectivity frameworks
Domestic–Global Perception	Concerns over democratic backsliding & human rights	Image-building through G20 presidency & global activism
Energy & Technology	Dependence on fossil fuel imports & tech gaps	Renewable energy partnerships, semiconductor & AI alliances
Multilateralism	Ineffective UN reforms & institutional stagnation	Leadership in BRICS, G20, SCO & Global South forums
Maritime Strategy	Increased Chinese presence in Indian Ocean	Expansion of IOR diplomacy, SAGAR & naval modernization
Diaspora Policy	Balancing diaspora influence with bilateral relations	Soft power enhancement & economic–cultural networks

7.1 Border Tensions with China (e.g., Galwan 2020)

The biggest security threat facing India at the time was the dramatic decline in ties with China, which led to the worst military conflict in more than 40 years in June 2020 in the Galwan Valley. Divergent geopolitical perspectives, conflicting territory claims, and systemic mistrust were all revealed by the episode. Increased PLA patrols, forceful posture, and the development of China's military infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were all seen as measures to change the status quo. India responded by strengthening defence procurement, speeding up connectivity projects, increasing border deployment, and placing financial limitations on Chinese investments and digital platforms [45–46]. Additionally, the crisis signalled a strategic realignment by bringing India closer to Indo-Pacific alliances, especially the QUAD. China is a long-term strategic constraint because of the drawn-out disengagement talks, which showed how difficult it is to resolve a conflict without a mutually agreeable border demarcation [47].

7.2 Regional Instability and Terrorism

Due to political instability, violent extremism, cross-border terrorism, and weak state institutions, South Asia continues to be a hazardous security environment. Pakistan's employment of terrorist proxies, as evidenced by the Pathankot (2016), Uri (2016), and Pulwama (2019) attacks, has made it

a major challenge [48]. These events, including as the 2016 surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot air operation, prompted India to take a more aggressive counterterrorism stance. Political changes in Afghanistan, particularly the Taliban takeover in 2021, made regional security even more difficult by igniting worries about humanitarian crises, arms trafficking, and radicalization. Diplomatic instability was brought about by internal political changes in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Maldives, and China's expanding influence in these nations put India's neighbourhood strategy in jeopardy. In order to maintain regional peace, these changes necessitated ongoing diplomatic involvement, intelligence collaboration, economic support, and crisis management activities [49].

7.3 Trade Protectionism and Global Economic Volatility

As the world economy grew more fragmented, protectionist, and crisis-driven, India's economic diplomacy faced growing uncertainty. India's import costs, export competitiveness, and investment flows were impacted by the U.S.-China trade war, supply-chain interruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, sanctions associated with the conflict in Ukraine, fluctuating oil prices, and tightening monetary policies. India withdrew from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2019 due to worries about China's domination, trade imbalances, and the protection of native industries. Concurrently, the legitimacy of free-trade regimes and multilateral organizations such as the World Trade Organization was undermined by the rise of nationalist economic policies across the globe. In order to overcome these obstacles, India had to increase its self-reliance in vital industries like semiconductors, defence manufacturing, and energy, diversify its trading partners, pursue bilateral free trade agreements, foster robust supply chains, and increase commerce in digital and services [50].

8. Comparative Analysis

India's foreign policy from 2014 to 2024 differs significantly from previous diplomatic frameworks, especially those from the early 2000s and the post-Cold War era. India's foreign policy before to 2014 was characterized by cautious multilateralism, little military diplomacy, little maritime activity, and a penchant for strategic caution. In contrast, the decade following 2014 demonstrates a more assured, proactive, and interest-driven approach to international affairs [51-52].

The 2014-2024 phase reinforced strategic multi-alignment-balancing ties with the US, Russia, EU, Japan, ASEAN, and West Asia at the same time-in contrast to previous periods that were largely cantered on nonalignment, development diplomacy, and South Asian regionalism. As evidenced by its aggressiveness at the Line of Actual Control and its response to cross-border terrorism, India showed a willingness to directly address security challenges. Priorities that were previously focused on the land were superseded by maritime engagement, particularly through the Indo-Pacific vision [53-54].

Instead than focusing only on assistance diplomacy, the period's economic priorities included trade diversification, connectivity corridors, energy alliances, and technology cooperation. In terms of diplomacy, India changed from being a rule-taker to an agenda-setter, as demonstrated by its leadership in the G20 presidency, the revival of QUAD, and climate negotiations. The comparative change represents a wider transition from reactive diplomacy to strategic construction of the international order, even while issues like China's growing influence and regional instability still exist [55-56].

9. Recommendations

Based on the analysis of India's foreign policy between 2014 and 2024, a number of policy-oriented suggestions may be proposed to strengthen India's strategic position in the evolving international order. First, India should continue to maintain strategic autonomy while deepening issue-based partnerships with major global powers such as the United States, Russia, Japan, the European Union, and ASEAN countries. A balanced multi-alignment strategy will help India protect its national

interests without becoming excessively dependent on any single power bloc.

Second, greater emphasis should be placed on regional diplomacy under the “Neighbourhood First” policy. India must strengthen economic connectivity, cross-border infrastructure, humanitarian assistance, and people-to-people relations with neighbouring countries in South Asia. Stable and cooperative regional relations are essential for ensuring security and countering external strategic influence in the region.

Third, India needs to further expand its role in the Indo-Pacific by enhancing maritime capabilities, naval modernization, and strategic cooperation with regional partners. Stronger participation in frameworks such as QUAD, BIMSTEC, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association can improve India’s maritime security and regional influence.

Fourth, economic diplomacy should become a central pillar of India’s foreign policy. The country should promote trade diversification, resilient supply chains, digital partnerships, semiconductor manufacturing, renewable energy cooperation, and technological innovation. Reducing dependence on external markets in critical sectors will strengthen India’s economic security and global competitiveness.

Fifth, India should continue to play a constructive leadership role in multilateral institutions such as the G20, BRICS, SCO, WTO, and the United Nations. India may actively advocate reforms in global governance institutions to ensure fair representation for developing countries and emerging economies.

Sixth, greater investment in defence modernization, cyber security, artificial intelligence, and space technology is necessary to address emerging non-traditional security threats. Strengthening indigenous defence production and strategic technological partnerships will enhance India’s long-term security preparedness.

Finally, India should continue utilizing soft power diplomacy through cultural exchanges, educational cooperation, diaspora engagement, climate leadership, and developmental assistance. Such initiatives can enhance India’s global image and reinforce its position as a responsible and influential global actor in the twenty-first century.

10. Policy Implications and Future Directions

In the future, India’s foreign policy will have to negotiate a fractured international landscape characterized by economic protectionism, technical competitiveness, geopolitical rivalry, and climate risks. Trends from 2014 to 2024 have policy implications that highlight the necessity of enhancing national capacities and expanding international collaborations [57].

External credibility will be strengthened domestically by sustained investments in cybersecurity, semiconductor manufacturing, energy transition, defence modernization, and trade competitiveness. Maintaining cooperation with Western allies while keeping historical links with Russia and fostering relations in the Global South are all important aspects of India’s external multi-alignment without going overboard. Economic diplomacy, cross-border infrastructure development, and additional institutional reform particularly with SAARC, BIMSTEC, and IORA will continue to be crucial [58-59].

Strengthening Indo-Pacific security involvement, improving supply-chain resilience, growing space and digital diplomacy, and advocating for inclusive multilateral changes at the UN, WTO, and IMF are all necessary for future orientations. India’s worldwide story will continue to be shaped via cultural diplomacy, diaspora ties, and public diplomacy. All things considered, India’s foreign policy needs to continue being flexible, realistic, and proactive balancing its obligations as a rising global power with its national interests [60].

11. Conclusion

India’s foreign policy changed dramatically between 2014 and 2024, eschewing traditional nonalignment in favour of strategic multi-alignment, proactive regional outreach, and global leadership. The decade was marked by a growing Indo-Pacific vision, economic statecraft, diversification of partnerships, forceful diplomacy, and a focus on maritime security. India’s strategic resilience was put to the test by obstacles like border tensions, new security threats, unpredictability in the world economy, and changes in geopolitical power, but they also increased diplomatic space

and opportunities. India is in a unique position to shape the structure of a multipolar global order at this critical juncture. Its foreign policy trajectory points to increased global participation, stronger integration into international governance frameworks, and sustained strategic autonomy. India's capacity to strike a balance between ambition and realism, settle regional problems, bolster internal capacities, and continue to articulate a stable, equitable, and cooperative global vision will determine the country's performance over the next ten years.

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