

| India's Foreign Relations: A Comprehensive Report

1. Introduction

India's foreign relations are shaped by its geography, history, economic ambitions, security requirements, civilizational outlook, and aspiration to play a greater role in global affairs. As one of the world's largest countries by population, a major economy, a nuclear-armed state, and an increasingly important technological and military power, India occupies a significant position in the international system.

Indian foreign policy has undergone considerable transformation since independence in 1947. During the Cold War, India was one of the leading advocates of non-alignment and sought to avoid formal alignment with either the United States-led Western bloc or the Soviet bloc. After the end of the Cold War, economic liberalization and changes in the global balance of power encouraged India to develop closer relations with the United States, Europe, East Asia, Russia, and countries of Southeast Asia.

In the 21st century, Indian foreign policy has increasingly emphasized strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, economic diplomacy, national security, connectivity, technology, and a greater voice for the Global South. India seeks simultaneously to cooperate with different and sometimes competing

powers rather than becoming dependent on any single bloc. The Ministry of External Affairs describes India's contemporary approach as combining bilateral partnerships with active participation in plurilateral and multilateral institutions, while emphasizing strategic autonomy and reform of global governance. Ministry of External Affairs

This approach has become particularly important as international politics has become more competitive. The rivalry between the United States and China, Russia's war in Ukraine, instability in the Middle East, competition for critical technologies, climate change, and changing global supply chains have all created both opportunities and challenges for India.

2. Historical Evolution of Indian Foreign Policy

2.1 The Nehru Era and Non-Alignment

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, played a central role in establishing the country's foreign-policy tradition. India emerged from colonial rule with strong concerns about sovereignty, imperialism, racial discrimination, and military alliances.

Rather than joining either major Cold War bloc, India promoted non-alignment. The objective was not simply neutrality. Indian policymakers wanted newly independent countries to retain freedom of decision-making and avoid becoming instruments of superpower rivalry.

India was a major participant in the development of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), alongside countries such as Egypt, Yugoslavia, Indonesia and Ghana. India also supported:

- Decolonization and national liberation movements.
- Peaceful settlement of international disputes.
- Nuclear disarmament.
- Sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Economic development in developing countries.
- Reform of international institutions.

The Panchsheel principles, associated with India and China in the 1950s, emphasized mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and peaceful coexistence.

However, India's idealistic approach encountered serious challenges. The 1962 India-China War demonstrated the limits of relying on diplomatic principles when confronted with unresolved territorial disputes and military competition.

2.2 India and the Soviet Union

Although India formally maintained non-alignment, its relationship with the Soviet Union became increasingly important, particularly from the 1960s onward.

The Soviet Union became a major source of:

- Military equipment.
- Industrial technology.

- Energy cooperation.
- Diplomatic support.
- Space and nuclear cooperation.

The 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between India and the Soviet Union reflected the strategic importance of the relationship.

The partnership was particularly significant during the 1971 Bangladesh crisis, when India fought Pakistan and helped facilitate the creation of Bangladesh.

2.3 The Post-Cold War Transformation

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 forced India to reconsider its international strategy.

At the same time, India was experiencing a major economic transformation. Economic liberalization created incentives to expand trade and investment relations with Western countries and East Asia.

The United States gradually became a much more important partner. Relations with Israel expanded, India's "Look East" policy deepened engagement with Southeast Asia, and ties with Europe, Japan and other advanced economies grew.

The old concept of non-alignment gradually evolved into what is commonly described as strategic autonomy or multi-alignment.

3. Strategic Autonomy and Multi-Alignment

Strategic autonomy is one of the most important concepts in contemporary Indian foreign policy.

India does not generally seek to join a formal military alliance dominated by another major power. Instead, it seeks freedom to cooperate with different countries according to specific interests.

For example, India can simultaneously:

- Cooperate militarily with the United States.
- Maintain a major defense relationship with Russia.
- Participate in the Quad with the United States, Japan and Australia.
- Participate in BRICS alongside Russia and China.
- Participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
- Develop strategic relations with France.
- Expand economic relations with the European Union.
- Maintain dialogue with Iran and Gulf states.

This policy is sometimes described as multi-alignment. Analysts argue that it enables India to diversify its partnerships and avoid excessive dependence on one power. RUSI+1

The policy is particularly useful because India faces a complicated strategic environment. China is a major economic partner but also a strategic competitor; Russia is a traditional defense partner but increasingly close to

China; and the United States is an increasingly important security and technology partner while also pursuing its own economic interests.

4. India–United States Relations

India's relationship with the United States has undergone one of the most significant transformations in its foreign policy.

During the Cold War, relations were frequently characterized by political disagreements. India viewed U.S. alliances with Pakistan with suspicion, while Washington was often concerned about India's relationship with the Soviet Union.

The relationship improved substantially after the end of the Cold War.

Major areas of cooperation

Defense and security

The United States has become an important defense partner for India. Cooperation includes:

- Military exercises.
- Maritime security.
- Intelligence and information sharing.
- Defense technology.
- Aircraft and other military equipment.
- Indo-Pacific security.

The two countries also participate in the Quad, together with Japan and Australia.

Technology

Technology has become increasingly central to the relationship. Areas of interest include:

- Semiconductors.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Telecommunications.
- Space.
- Cybersecurity.
- Critical minerals.
- Advanced manufacturing.

Trade and investment

The United States is one of India's most important economic partners. Indian companies have expanded their presence in the American market, while U.S. companies have invested heavily in India's technology, manufacturing, financial and consumer sectors.

The relationship therefore extends well beyond traditional diplomacy.

Continuing difficulties

Despite strategic convergence, disagreements remain over:

- Trade and tariffs.
- India's defense relationship with Russia.
- Human-rights concerns.

- Immigration and mobility.
- Market access.
- Differences over Russia's war in Ukraine.

The relationship has therefore become strategically important without becoming a formal alliance. U.S. Congressional research describes India's position as one of "multi-alignment" or "strategic autonomy," while noting the continuing importance of the partnership to both sides. EveryCRSReport

5. India–Russia Relations

Russia remains one of India's most important traditional strategic partners.

The relationship has historical roots in the Soviet period and has survived the end of the Cold War.

Defense

Defense cooperation is perhaps the most important pillar. Russia has historically supplied India with:

- Fighter aircraft.
- Tanks.
- Missiles.
- Naval systems.
- Air-defense systems.
- Nuclear-powered submarine technology and other strategic capabilities.

Although India has diversified its military suppliers, Russia remains deeply embedded in India's defense ecosystem. EveryCRSReport

Energy

Russia has also become increasingly important to India as an energy supplier, particularly because Indian refiners have purchased significant quantities of Russian crude oil.

This has created friction with Western governments, especially amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Diplomatic importance

India does not want Russia to become completely dependent on China. Maintaining a working relationship with Moscow therefore has strategic value for New Delhi.

At the same time, India does not support Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has repeatedly called for dialogue and diplomacy.

The challenge for India is to preserve its relationship with Moscow without damaging its growing relationships with the United States and Europe. Analysts describe this as a central component of India's strategy of strategic autonomy. RUSI

6. India–China Relations

India's relationship with China is simultaneously one of its most important economic relationships and one of its most serious strategic challenges.

The two countries share a long and disputed border. Their relationship has been affected by competing territorial claims, military deployments, trade imbalances and rivalry for influence across Asia and the Indian Ocean.

The 1962 war left a lasting impact on bilateral relations.

A major deterioration occurred after the 2020 border crisis and the deadly clash in the Galwan Valley. Since then, India has strengthened military infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control and has pursued greater strategic cooperation with other Indo-Pacific powers. OUP Academic

Economic relationship

China remains a major trading partner for India. Bilateral trade has been substantial, while India relies on China for various manufactured goods, electronics, pharmaceutical inputs and other industrial products. EveryCRSReport

This creates a paradox: India wants to reduce strategic dependence on China while continuing to benefit from economic exchange.

Strategic competition

India is concerned about China's:

- Military modernization.
- Presence in the Indian Ocean.
- Belt and Road Initiative.
- Relationships with India's neighboring countries.
- Growing influence in South Asia.
- Technological capabilities.

China, meanwhile, views India's growing cooperation with the United States, Japan and Australia with suspicion.

India has consequently adopted a combination of military strengthening, economic diversification, diplomatic engagement and participation in multilateral institutions. Research on India's post-Galwan strategy describes this as involving both hard balancing and "soft balancing" through organizations such as BRICS, the SCO and other multilateral forums. OUP Academic

7. India–Pakistan Relations

Relations between India and Pakistan are among the most difficult aspects of India's foreign policy.

The main sources of tension include:

- The Kashmir dispute.
- Cross-border terrorism.
- Military confrontation.
- Water issues.
- Nuclear deterrence.
- Political hostility.

India and Pakistan have fought several wars and military conflicts since independence.

The Kashmir issue remains a central source of disagreement. India maintains that terrorism and cross-border violence must end before meaningful

normalization can take place, while Pakistan continues to raise the Kashmir dispute internationally.

Because both countries possess nuclear weapons, their relationship has wider implications for international security.

India generally seeks to prevent Pakistan from internationalizing bilateral disputes and emphasizes that outstanding issues should be addressed directly between the two countries.

8. India and South Asia

India's immediate neighborhood is a fundamental component of its foreign policy.

Its geographical position gives it extensive political, economic and security interests across South Asia.

India's neighbors include:

- Pakistan.
- China.
- Nepal.
- Bhutan.
- Bangladesh.
- Myanmar.
- Sri Lanka.
- Maldives.
- Afghanistan.

India has promoted policies such as "Neighbourhood First" to strengthen relations with surrounding countries.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is particularly important because of geography, trade, connectivity and security.

Cooperation includes:

- Cross-border transport.
- Energy.
- Trade.
- River-water management.
- Border security.
- Regional connectivity.

Nepal and Bhutan

India maintains extensive economic, cultural and security ties with Nepal and Bhutan.

Bhutan is especially significant because of its strategic location between India and China.

Sri Lanka

India has important economic and security interests in Sri Lanka. Maritime security and China's growing involvement in Sri Lankan infrastructure have increased India's strategic attention to the island.

Maldives

The Maldives occupies a strategically important position in the Indian Ocean. India has sought to maintain close security and economic ties while responding to political shifts within the country.

Myanmar

Myanmar is important because it connects India to Southeast Asia and forms part of India's northeastern security environment.

Political instability in Myanmar, however, complicates India's approach.

9. India and the Indian Ocean

India's geography gives the Indian Ocean exceptional importance.

The country's long coastline and position near major maritime trade routes make maritime security central to its foreign policy.

India seeks to strengthen:

- Maritime domain awareness.
- Naval capabilities.
- Anti-piracy operations.
- Humanitarian assistance.
- Disaster relief.
- Port connectivity.
- Partnerships with Indian Ocean states.

India has promoted the idea of SAGAR — Security and Growth for All in the Region — as a framework for Indian Ocean engagement.

The Indian Ocean is also an area of competition with China, whose economic and infrastructure presence has expanded throughout the region.

10. India and the Indo-Pacific

The Indo-Pacific has become one of the central concepts of India's contemporary foreign policy.

India's objective is to maintain a free, open, inclusive and rules-based maritime environment while protecting its strategic autonomy.

India participates in several Indo-Pacific mechanisms.

The Quad

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, consisting of India, the United States, Japan and Australia, focuses on issues such as:

- Maritime security.
- Critical technologies.
- Supply-chain resilience.
- Infrastructure.
- Health security.
- Humanitarian assistance.

India sees the Quad as useful without treating it as a traditional military alliance.

The United States similarly regards India as a crucial partner in its Indo-Pacific strategy. EveryCRSReport

ASEAN

India has developed increasingly close relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Act East Policy builds upon India's earlier "Look East" policy and seeks greater engagement with Southeast Asia and the wider Indo-Pacific.

11. India and Europe

Europe has become increasingly important to India's foreign policy.

India's relationships with European states combine:

- Trade.
- Investment.
- Technology.
- Climate cooperation.
- Education.
- Defense.
- Energy.
- Connectivity.

France

France is among India's most important European strategic partners.

Cooperation includes defense, aerospace, nuclear energy, maritime security and Indo-Pacific affairs.

France's willingness to pursue an independent foreign policy makes it particularly compatible with India's emphasis on strategic autonomy.

European Union

The European Union is a major economic and political partner.

India and the EU have sought to expand cooperation in:

- Trade.
- Investment.
- Green technology.
- Digital technologies.
- Supply chains.
- Security.
- Climate change.

Recent geopolitical developments have increased Europe's strategic importance to India. India's desire to diversify economic and technological partnerships has encouraged greater engagement with European countries.

Carnegie Endowment

12. India and the Middle East

The Middle East is critical to India because of:

- Energy supplies.
- Trade.
- Indian workers and diaspora communities.
- Maritime security.

- Investment.
- Food security.
- Strategic geography.

India maintains important relationships with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Israel.

Gulf countries

Millions of Indians live and work in the Gulf region, making these relationships economically and socially important.

India also imports substantial energy resources from the region.

Israel

India's relationship with Israel has expanded substantially since diplomatic relations were established in 1992.

Cooperation includes:

- Defense.
- Agriculture.
- Water technology.
- Counterterrorism.
- Innovation.
- Cybersecurity.

At the same time, India continues to support Palestinian statehood while attempting to maintain productive relations with Arab countries and Israel.

13. India and Africa

India views Africa as an important partner in the Global South.

India's African diplomacy includes:

- Development assistance.
- Capacity building.
- Education and training.
- Healthcare.
- Digital technology.
- Agriculture.
- Trade.
- Energy.
- Defense cooperation.

India's engagement with Africa is also linked to its effort to strengthen the voice of developing countries in global institutions.

The relationship is therefore both economic and geopolitical.

14. India and the Global South

India has increasingly presented itself as a leading voice of the Global South.

This approach gained particular visibility during India's G20 presidency.

India has argued that developing countries need greater representation in institutions such as:

- The United Nations Security Council.

- International financial institutions.
- Global economic governance bodies.

India's foreign policy therefore combines the pursuit of national power with a broader claim to represent developing-country interests.

The Ministry of External Affairs identifies strengthening the Global South and reforming multilateral institutions as important components of India's contemporary diplomacy. Ministry of External Affairs

15. India and BRICS

BRICS has become an important platform for India's engagement with emerging powers.

The grouping provides India with opportunities to cooperate with:

- Brazil.
- Russia.
- China.
- South Africa.
- Other participating emerging economies.

India supports a more representative global order but does not necessarily support replacing the existing international system with a completely alternative system.

This illustrates the complexity of Indian diplomacy: India can participate in institutions that include China and Russia while simultaneously cooperating closely with Western countries.

India's participation in BRICS is therefore an important instrument of strategic autonomy. Analysts note that BRICS provides India with a platform for engaging Russia and China while strengthening its position within the Global South. Chatham House

16. India and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation provides India with another mechanism for engagement with Eurasia.

Its membership brings India into regular contact with:

- China.
- Russia.
- Central Asian countries.
- Pakistan.
- Iran and other participating states.

The SCO is particularly relevant to India because of:

- Counterterrorism.
- Central Asian connectivity.
- Energy.
- Eurasian security.
- Relations with Russia and China.

India's participation demonstrates that strategic competition does not prevent diplomatic engagement.

17. India and the United Nations

India has historically supported the United Nations and the principle of multilateral diplomacy.

One of India's major foreign-policy objectives is reform of the UN Security Council.

India argues that the current structure does not adequately represent the contemporary distribution of global population, economic power and political influence.

India seeks permanent membership in an expanded Security Council.

Its argument is based partly on:

- Population.
 - Economic significance.
 - Contributions to UN peacekeeping.
 - Democratic credentials.
 - Role in the developing world.
 - Increasing international responsibilities.
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18. Economic Diplomacy

Economic interests have become central to Indian foreign relations.

Foreign policy increasingly supports domestic economic objectives such as:

- Attracting foreign investment.
- Expanding exports.

- Integrating India into global supply chains.
- Developing manufacturing.
- Securing energy supplies.
- Obtaining advanced technology.
- Building infrastructure.
- Supporting Indian companies overseas.

India's growing economy increases its diplomatic influence, while diplomatic relationships create opportunities for economic development.

This has made the distinction between economic policy and foreign policy increasingly blurred.

19. Energy Security

Energy security is a major foreign-policy concern.

India has a large and growing demand for:

- Oil.
- Natural gas.
- Coal.
- Nuclear energy.
- Renewable energy.

Consequently, India maintains relationships with energy producers in:

- Russia.
- The Gulf.
- Iran.

- Africa.
- Other regions.

Russia's importance increased following changes in global energy markets after the Ukraine war. India's purchase of Russian oil has generated disagreements with Western governments, but New Delhi has argued that energy security is a legitimate national interest.

This issue illustrates India's broader foreign-policy strategy: maintaining relations with competing powers while protecting its own economic interests.

20. Defense and Strategic Diplomacy

India's foreign policy is closely linked to national security.

Major security concerns include:

- China.
- Pakistan.
- Terrorism.
- Maritime security.
- Cybersecurity.
- Space security.
- Nuclear deterrence.
- Critical technologies.

India has therefore diversified its defense partnerships.

Although Russia remains historically important, India increasingly acquires defense equipment and technology from countries such as the United States, France and Israel.

India is also seeking greater domestic defense production under initiatives aimed at strengthening self-reliance.

21. Nuclear Diplomacy

India's nuclear policy has an important place in its foreign relations.

India conducted nuclear tests in 1974 and again in 1998.

India argues that its nuclear weapons are primarily intended for deterrence and has traditionally emphasized a doctrine of credible minimum deterrence.

India is not a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a nuclear-weapon state, but it has developed extensive nuclear cooperation with major powers.

The U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement was particularly significant because it helped integrate India into aspects of global civilian nuclear commerce despite India's position outside the NPT framework.

22. Climate Change and Environmental Diplomacy

Climate diplomacy has become increasingly important.

India faces significant challenges involving:

- Extreme heat.
- Water stress.
- Air pollution.
- Agricultural vulnerability.
- Energy transition.

India seeks to balance climate commitments with its development needs.

Its international climate diplomacy emphasizes:

- Climate justice.
- Developed countries' historical responsibility.
- Technology transfer.
- Climate finance.
- Renewable energy.

India has also promoted initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, reflecting its attempt to combine climate diplomacy with technological and developmental cooperation.

23. Technology and Digital Diplomacy

Technology has emerged as a major dimension of India's international relations.

India seeks cooperation in:

- Artificial intelligence.
- Semiconductors.

- Digital public infrastructure.
- Cybersecurity.
- Telecommunications.
- Space.
- Quantum technology.
- Biotechnology.

India's digital-development experience has also become a component of its Global South diplomacy.

Technology is increasingly viewed not merely as an economic issue but as an element of national security and geopolitical influence.

24. The Indian Diaspora

The Indian diaspora is another important instrument of India's global influence.

Large Indian communities exist in:

- The United States.
- Canada.
- The United Kingdom.
- Australia.
- Gulf countries.
- Southeast Asia.
- Africa.
- Europe.

The diaspora contributes through:

- Remittances.
- Business.
- Investment.
- Political engagement.
- Academic and technological cooperation.
- Cultural connections.

However, diaspora politics can also create diplomatic complications when political disputes in India or host countries become international issues.

25. India's Major Foreign-Policy Challenges

Despite its growing influence, India faces several major challenges.

25.1 Managing China

China is arguably India's most significant long-term strategic challenge.

India must simultaneously manage:

- Border disputes.
- Military competition.
- Trade dependence.
- Regional rivalry.
- Competition for influence in the Indian Ocean.

The relationship therefore requires both deterrence and diplomacy.

25.2 Balancing Russia and the West

India wants strong relations with Russia while deepening partnerships with the United States and Europe.

The Ukraine war has made this balancing act more difficult.

India's policy demonstrates strategic autonomy, but it also creates diplomatic pressure from both sides. RUSI+1

25.3 Managing Pakistan

India faces the continuing challenge of terrorism, military rivalry and nuclear risks associated with Pakistan.

A stable South Asian environment is important for India's economic ambitions, but political normalization remains difficult.

25.4 Global Economic Competition

India wants to become a major manufacturing and technology hub.

To accomplish this, it needs:

- Foreign investment.
- Export markets.
- Stable supply chains.
- Technology transfers.
- Skilled labor.
- Energy security.

Trade disputes and protectionism in major economies can therefore directly affect India's foreign policy.

25.5 Maintaining Strategic Autonomy

India's biggest diplomatic challenge may be maintaining strategic autonomy in an increasingly polarized world.

The international system is increasingly characterized by competition between major power centers.

India does not want to choose permanently between:

- The United States and China.
- Russia and the West.
- Western and non-Western institutions.

Instead, it seeks flexibility.

However, the more intense geopolitical competition becomes, the harder this strategy can be to sustain. Recent analysis argues that India's balancing act between Western institutions such as the Quad and non-Western groupings such as BRICS and the SCO is becoming increasingly difficult. Chatham House

26. Strengths of Indian Foreign Policy

India possesses several important advantages.

Geographic position

India sits at the intersection of South Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.

Large population and market

India's huge domestic market makes it attractive to international businesses and governments.

Economic growth

A larger economy gives India greater diplomatic leverage.

Military capability

India possesses significant conventional military and nuclear capabilities.

Democratic institutions

India's democratic system provides a basis for strong relationships with other democracies.

Strategic autonomy

India's ability to work with competing powers gives it considerable diplomatic flexibility.

Diaspora

Indian communities around the world contribute to India's economic and political influence.

Technology

India's information-technology, space and digital sectors increasingly contribute to its international influence.

27. Limitations of Indian Foreign Policy

India also faces structural limitations.

These include:

- Large development requirements.
- Infrastructure gaps.
- Dependence on imported energy.
- Defense-import dependence.
- Border disputes.
- Regional instability.
- Trade imbalances.
- Competition with China.
- Limited institutional capacity compared with some major powers.

India's diplomatic ambitions therefore need to be supported by continued economic and military development.

28. Future Direction of Indian Foreign Relations

India's foreign policy is likely to become increasingly multi-dimensional and multi-aligned.

Several trends are particularly important.

Greater Indo-Pacific engagement

India is likely to continue strengthening relations with Japan, Australia, the United States, France and Southeast Asian states.

Continued strategic autonomy

India is unlikely to become a conventional treaty ally of any major power. Maintaining freedom of action will remain central.

Deeper technological partnerships

Technology, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space and digital infrastructure will become increasingly important diplomatic issues.

Stronger European engagement

Europe is likely to become more important as India seeks to diversify its economic, technological and security partnerships. Recent analysis highlights Europe's growing potential as a strategic and economic partner for India amid uncertainty in relations with Washington. Carnegie Endowment

Managing China

India will probably pursue a combination of deterrence, economic diversification and diplomatic engagement with China.

Continued relations with Russia

India is likely to maintain important defense, energy and diplomatic ties with Moscow while gradually diversifying its external partnerships.

Greater Global South leadership

India is likely to continue seeking a larger role for developing countries in global governance.

29. Conclusion

India's foreign relations have evolved from the non-alignment of the Cold War period toward a more flexible strategy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment.

The central objective of Indian diplomacy is no longer simply to remain outside great-power blocs. Instead, India seeks to develop relationships with multiple centers of power while maximizing its own economic, technological, military and diplomatic capabilities.

India simultaneously cooperates with the United States through the Indo-Pacific and Quad, maintains historic ties with Russia, manages strategic competition with China, engages with Europe, maintains relations with Gulf countries and Israel, seeks stability in South Asia, and participates in organizations such as BRICS, the SCO, the G20 and the United Nations.

This apparent complexity is not necessarily inconsistency. It reflects India's attempt to operate as an independent major power in a fragmented international system.

The central principle of contemporary Indian foreign policy can therefore be understood as partnership without permanent dependence.

India's future international influence will depend on whether it can translate its demographic scale, economic growth, technological capabilities, military

strength and diplomatic reach into sustained global power while preserving strategic autonomy.

As the international order becomes more competitive, India's ability to maintain relationships across geopolitical divisions may become one of its greatest diplomatic assets. At the same time, managing China, maintaining productive relations with both Russia and the West, securing India's neighborhood, and integrating foreign policy with domestic economic development will remain major tests of Indian diplomacy.

This can also be expanded into a 15–20 page university report with a bibliography, executive summary, research questions, objectives, methodology, SWOT analysis, timeline, and separate sections on India–US, India–China, India–Russia, India–Pakistan and India's role in BRICS/Quad/G20.