

India's neighbourhood policy during UPA Government with special reference to Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka

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Abstract: - *in this paper an attempt has been made to study India's economics and political policies towards its neighbours during United Progressive Alliance(UPA)led by Indian national Congress. Main thrust is laid on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's role in maintaining friendly and cordial relations with its immediate neighbours. The importance of perception between India and its neighbours was highlighted by defence minister A.K. Antony of Dr. Manmohan Singh cabinet." we hope that the perception about India will change gradually, as we make earnest effort to build trust and confidence. He pointed out that India has to factor in expectations of people from different states while framing its policy towards region; likely the neighbours will also have to do the same. He added, the issue that we need to focus on is how to make this perception favourable to bring about a positive change in the region.*

Introduction

The emerging trends of Indian foreign policy towards her neighbours are that of 'extending friendship'- a reiteration of the Panchsheel and the Gujral doctrine and with the fast changing of world scenario and politics evolving around it especially where India is more concern about its policy with neighbours. The relation with and policy towards neighbours is of paramount important to all countries, because peace and security largely determines the regional environment and contributes towards forging link of cooperation. Hence it has been suggested time and again that in India's policy with neighbours should given height priority, because India is going too judged in the world mainly through the prism of the perception of its neighbours and India's regional and global power largely depends on her image and standing with its neighbours.

Objectives

1. To explain India's policy towards neighbours during UPA governments
2. To study India's role of maintain good relation with its neighbours.

Methodology

Historical discipline and analytical method is adopted. For the purpose of the study, both published and unpublished secondary data has been utilized. The data is collected from various books, journals such as India's foreign policy and its neighbours, Indian foreign policy theory and practice word focus and south Asian studies etc.

India's policy with neighbours an historical perspective

Traditionally, India's long term foreign policy is well –known for its strict adherence to non-alignment vis-a-vis international conflict. Ever since independence, the India's policy towards her neighbours has been to maintain peaceful and friendly relations to all. "Nehru is report to have said in 1949 the neighbours are first place in our mind" and during nehruvian era India concept of neighbours covered the whole of Asia. During the regime of Lal Bahadur Shastri India fought two wars with its neighbours in 1962, 1965, these two debacles, India's Prime Minister initiated an active phase of intensive concern are for its immediate neighbours. During Indira Gandhi period, she adopted policy of Nehruvian vision and aspiration. And she also believed that it should be related to the countries evolving security, political, economic interest for which India needed to be emerging strong and reliant. Then after the Janatha Government come into power and Janatha Government was highly critical of Indira's muscular Foreign Policy. It's aimed at giving good priority to its neighbourliness and mutual beneficialism but was criticised by next Congress Government of bartering away the countries National Interest. The initial years of Rajiv era saw an importance being given to good neighbourliness, but later he accused the neighbours of seeking extra benefit. The V.P Singh Government was also criticised by for its mishandling of the ethnic crises in Sri Lanka, thereby damaging India's image as a regional power.

In 1991 Congress Government return in power coincided with the end of the cold war and India adopted the path of economic liberalization. In the wide scale economic reforms of this period attracted the neighbours barring Pakistan to seek deeper economic engagement with India. In 1996 The United Front Government came in power, I.K Gujral a foreign minister he marked a new

approach towards her neighbour based on the Gujral Doctrine of Magnanimity and non-reciprocity. His aim was peaceful settlement of disputes with its neighbours without any condition and terms. The BJP Government led by NDA adopted same path of Gujral trend. But increased terrorist attacks also compelled the government insist that “ it was living to walk that extra mile in building bridge of friendship provided they are sensitive to India’s security concerns.

In 2004 and 2009, the return of Congress with its coalition partners of UPA marks a new era of India’s policy to her neighbours and it is identified as “Manmohan Singh Doctrine.” The primary objective of UPA Government has been to improve the global and regional environment for sustaining India’s growth process and overall development and its aim is to maintain top level relations with her neighbour countries.

Pakistan

Since the partition of India in 1947, creating two countries, India and Pakistan, two countries have had a continuously adversely relationships. India and Pakistan have gone through four full scale of war and India is facing a proxy war conducted by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir aimed at separating Jammu and Kashmir from rest of India. To blame Pakistan alone would be irrational and self righteous both the countries are at loggerheads with each other because of lack of communication and mutual apprehension and deliberately nurtured misunderstanding.

India’s policy towards Pakistan 2004 to 2013 can be best viewed as the past years of India’s foreign policy. Where government of this period has nothing to boast of any triangle gains achieved in return for its obsessive pursuance of its one point agenda of “ peace, with Pakistan at any cost”. Past decade was the singular and striking fact that India’s Pakistan policy during this period was in a state of “severe disconnect” with the overwhelming India’s public opinion which did not approve of the India policy of Pakistan appeasement unbecoming of the pre dominant power of the India sub continent. Such has been current difference towards Pakistan that the Indian Army stood humiliated when Pakistan Army ambushed and served the head of one soldier to be carried back into Pakistan as a trophy. The Indian Army seethed with anger that it was not allowed to retaliate and held back all in the name of official obsession of pushing for peace with Pakistan.

India’s public opinion boiled over heavily when an Indian prisoner was brutally butchered in Pakistan Lahore jail later on he died. This was second such acts within three months. But the fact that, India’s present government had over invested. In the last ten years on peace with Pakistan did not want peace in India. India’s political leadership lost out heavily in being unable to secure India’s national security interest and this strategic permissiveness facilitating Pakistan to perceive itself as

a “ strategic co-equal of India” such was the lack of vision of India policy makers that publicly truths Pakistan and its leadership. Inshort India’s policy, makers would required to change their mindset because that in Pakistan there are two types of leadership I.e. political leadership and second one is military leadership with whom we should deal separately.

Bangladesh

The bilateral relations with Bangladesh have also received a major boost in the light of exchanges of high level visits. The visits of Bangladesh prime minister to India in June 2010 and Indian prime minister to Bangladesh in September have open a new chapter of cooperation , the two countries signed a major accord on border demarcation to end the four decades old disputes over border. This comes to known as Tin -Bigha Corridor. India also grants 24 hour access to Bangladesh citizen in tin -Bigha corridors. The agreement included exchanges of advisory held enclaves involving 51500 people spread over the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh the total land involved is repay 700acres. India’s other agreement with Bangladesh on sub-regional cooperation in other areas like power sector, water resources management physical connectivity, environment and sustainable development are indicative of positive relations. the Bangladesh high commissioner to India Tariq Karim said “India’s growth is Bangladesh growth can grow only when India grows, on October 2011 India and Bangladesh armies participated in Sampriti –II and unit-II a 14 days long joint military exercise at sylhet to increase synergy between their fore From October 2013 India government started exporting 500 megawatts of electricity a day to Bangladesh’s next a period of 35 years. A 125 kilometre Baharapur –Bheramara transmission line 40 Kilo meter of it in Bangladesh connected to the two substations. The two country prime minister also unveiled the plague of the 1320-MW coal fired rampal power plant, a joint venture between the two countries the link is being seen as a major step for strengthening the relation between the two countries . India and Bangladesh has also signed two keep parts with Bangladesh one Teesta water and the land boundary pacts is another landmark of their relations taking note of the strategic importance of India Bangladesh relation move towards a strategic partnership and good relation between the India and Bangladesh will have positive influence on the regional countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand will benefit to form trade and transit connectivity between India and Bangladesh.

The arrangement also suits new foreign policy vision, which is based on greater economic engagement with its neighbours. India has struggled to maintain smooth relations with its

neighbors. India's slowly growth ties with Bangladesh have given its look east policy a boost and could be the start renewed progress.

Sri-Lanka

The India's policy towards Sri-Lanka has also been largely encouraging, India has not only extended help in Sri-Lanka peace and rehabilitation process post-Eelam war but ever since FTA was signed 200 the total trade increased to US 4.08 billion in 2012.

The decision that India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh speaking the ECHOGM comes after India voted with 24 other started in May 2013 in favour of the controversial united human rights council resolution on human rights in Sri-Lanka. The main aspect of India's intervention was the needs for the institution of a credible and independent investigation into alleged war crimes and human rights abuses. New Delhi tries to amend the west sponsored resolution to make it less intrusive more balance and more respectful of Sri-Lanka sovereignty. Now India was trying to do the opposite bringing the amendment to make some words in the resolution stronger. But India failed to have any impact as both the AIADMK and DMK accused the UPA government of diluting the US sponsored

Resolution against Sri Lanka at the VNHRC by not moving any amendment demanded by ct. so New Delhi had no choice but to step up its diplomatic offensives and offers Colombo reconstruction old counter to Chinese will be a real challenge to India.

Nepal

Nepal the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal have had occupied an important place in Indian foreign policy scheme. The importance of these Himalayan actors for India can be visualized from two different angles: (I) the strategies importance of this Himalayan actor for India's national security and (II) The place of this Himalayan actor in India's own role perception in international politics.

The bilateral relations between India and Nepal have also been on an upswing with the signing of bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement in October 2011 and a revised double taxation avoidance agreement on 27th November 2011.

India is to be a major trading partner of Nepal and 60 percent of Nepal foreign trade is with India and in July 2013 India's external minister Salman Khurshid signed several agreements and promised support to the peaceful Constructional assembly election of Nepal in November in 2013 and offered scholarship to Nepali students, this year which has double 1500 to 3000. So India's

policy towards Nepal is clear that India would not meddle the internal politics of Nepal, but shall not tolerate any threat of any foreign country and also if any other country may interfere in their internal affairs because Nepal share 3rd portion of its border with India's five states, so it is necessary for India to maintain good and peaceful relation with Nepal for the betterment of Indian security concern.

Conclusion

In conclusion No national government can ignore domestic politics while conducting its foreign relations or foreign policy with other country. Regional sentiments are to be articulated to the addressed issues and not aggravate them to formulation of good foreign policy is always matter of concern for the union government so; long term national interest should receive priority over the compulsion of Indian politics for the short term gain. To maintain stable peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood policy is imperative for India and essential for rest of South Asian States and in 21st century India try to seek political economic modernization and also regional integration of the South Asia which will enable to reconnect more closely to central Asia and rest of the world and India already defined their five principal for the Indian foreign policy.

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