PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

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Narendra Modi and Barack Obama



• In his state visit to India in 2010, President Barack Obama hailed the Indo-American relationship as "one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century." The statement was hardly exaggerated. India's sheer size and location makes it an obvious choice for the United States to realize its goal of maintaining a balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region in the face of an increasingly assertive China. India, too, perceives China as a credible threat and understands that it needs outside help to deal with a power much mightier than itself. Combine this issue of adversarial China with other areas of common interest, such as counterrorism and stability in South Asia, and a long-term strategic partnership between India and the United States seems only natural.

• The Ministry of External affairs of India (MEA), also known as the Foreign Ministry, is the government agency responsible for the conduct of foreign relations of India. With the world's fifth largest military expenditure, second largest armed force, sixth largest economy by nominal rates and third largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity India is a regional power, a nuclear power, a nascent global power and a potential superpower. India has a growing international influence and a prominent voice in global affairs.

• India is a newly industrialised country, has a history of collaboration with several countries, is a component of the BRICS and a major part of developing world. India was one of the founding members of several international organisations—the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, New Development BRICS Bank, and G-20—and the founder of the Non-Aligned Movement.

• India has also played an important and influential role in other international organisations like East Asia Summit, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and IBSA Dialogue Forum. India is also a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

- Strengthening Multilateralism: India supports multilateral approach to deal with global issues like disarmament, terrorism, unfair trade etc. This principle also explains India's efforts in making institutions of global governance like the UN, World Bank, the IMF, the WTO more legitimate and effective.
- Independence of decision making: India doesn't want its foreign policy to be dictated by other countries. India engages with all the major powers irrespective of their relationship with each other. This explains India's policy of non-alignment during the Cold War era and the policy of multiple alignment in the present times.

• Respecting International Law: India doesn't choose to violate any international law-Conventions, treaties, standards- once it has give its consent and act in a manner that disturbs peace or promote injustice. An appilication of this principle can be seen in India's decision to accept UNCLOS verdict to the issue of resolving maritime boundary with Bangladesh; in approaching the International Seabed Authority for exploring polymetallic nodules in Indian Ocean; in abiding with *Indus Water Treaty* with Pakistan etc.

• Jawaharlal Nehru and Marshal Tito, President of Yugoslavia, signing the Joint Declaration after conclusion of their talks, July 1955



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