



Indian Council  
of World Affairs

**SECOND  
YOUNG  
SCHOLARS  
CONFERENCE**



**INDIA ON THE RISE  
FOREIGN POLICY  
IN THE  
AMRIT KAAL**

**11 March 2025**

**Venue: Sapru House**



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## About ICWA

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. H.N. Kunzru. Its principal objective was to create an Indian perspective on international relations and act as a repository of knowledge and thinking on foreign policy issues. An Act of Parliament in 2001 declared the ICWA to be an 'institution of national importance'. The ICWA is headquartered in Sapru House, an iconic heritage building in the heart of New Delhi that was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in May 1955. The council today conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as through external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, roundtable discussions, bilateral dialogues, international conferences, lectures and outreach activities in India and abroad and brings out a range of publications. The Council has a well-stocked library, an active website, and publishes the journal 'India Quarterly'. ICWA has over 50 MoUs with international think tanks and research institutions to promote better understanding in international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. The Council also has partnerships with leading research institutions, think tanks and universities in India.

## Agenda for Discussion

During his address on the occasion of the 77th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outlined the goal of India becoming a developed country when the nation celebrates its centenary of freedom in 2047. He stated that during this Amrit Kaal leading to the momentous occasion, institutions as well as citizens would contribute to enhance India's capabilities. He stated that this period will not only be a period of national development but also an occasion when the country will play an important role in giving a direction to the world. Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly (2023) was specific on India's global aspirations when he said, "We, in India, have never seen that as being in contradiction with global good. When we aspire to be a leading power, this is not for self-aggrandisement but to take on greater responsibility and make more contributions. The goals we have set for ourselves will make us different from all those whose rise preceded ours."

While the idea of an "Amrit Kaal" presents an inspirational outlook, achieving the goal of becoming a developed nation in 25 years would require sustained commitment, long-term planning, and collaboration across sectors and stakeholders. The question that arises is what kind of collaborations should India build and how should it strengthen them. To be a global power, would involve overcoming various challenges mostly internal and adapting to evolving global dynamics. The interplay between internal developments and external interactions laid the foundation for India's rich and diverse heritage, which continues to shape its identity in the modern world.

In the last few years we have witnessed a steady rise of India as a major influencer in global politics. This includes building global partnerships to address global challenges such as climate change, poverty alleviation, and access to public goods and protection of global commons. India's approach of emphasising diplomacy, multi-lateralism and dialogue, underscores the importance of nurturing relationships built on mutual respect and understanding, thereby nurturing a more inclusive and interconnected global community. Understanding these goals India has become a major partner in development and is using its resources to be a net security provider to the countries of the broader Indian Ocean Region and beyond by being the first responder in natural disasters such as earthquakes or evacuation of civilians from conflict zones, providing security equipments such as radars or providing safety to merchant ships and their crews in the waters of the Red Sea. India is also using its unique position of partnering with all major powers and to be part of multilateral forums such as the Quad, BRICS, and G20, to address a wide range of global issues. New Delhi is also working in close collaboration with its partners from the Global South to bring their concerns to the forefront and act as a consensus builder. India's strategic geographical location which provides proximity to major energy and trade routes, such as the Indian Ocean & the Strait of Malacca, enhances its role in global energy security & maritime trade & can be leveraged to make India into a logistic & transit hub.

To achieve its vision India would not only have to develop its strategic and politico-economic powers but also proactively leverage its soft power asset. The concept of Amrit Kaal also embraces the notion of using India's soft power to enhance ties in the region and beyond. The cultural links fostered

through the exchange of scholarly works, religious learning and texts, literature, dance, music, food etc have played a critical role in shaping diplomatic relations and partnerships. To this we can now add the vast Indian Diaspora which is an important element of India's foreign policy. Nevertheless, it's crucial to recognize that geopolitical realities are intricate & often shaped by diverse factors like economic and political interests, security considerations, and historical relations.

The conference looks at issues that Indian foreign policy will address in the Amrit Kaal period. It aims to discuss how Indian foreign policy will contribute to the vision of a developed nation by 2047. How will developments such as the use of technology, growing great power rivalry and a strained multilateral order impact the geopolitics in the future? As India looks at the future it will have to be ready to face a technology driven world, both for civil and strategic use. As the world's third largest economy and one that is extensively using digital technology, developing norms for safe use of emerging technology is an important factor that needs to be considered. This comes at a time when the agreements to protect the global commons are facing stress. It will be a critical period as India forges ties with the developing & developed world on different but equal terms.

The conference is being organised by ICWA in associations with its MoU partner universities and other central and state universities from across the country.



# PROGRAMME





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**Inaugural Session**

**1000-1030 hrs IST**

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Welcome Remarks

**Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar**

Additional Secretary

Indian Council of World Affairs

Keynote Address

**Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit**

Vice Chancellor

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Vote of Thanks

**Dr. Stuti Banerjee**

Senior Research Fellow

Indian Council of World Affairs

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## Session One: Indian Foreign Policy and Changing Geopolitics

- What are the challenges before India in the global arena? How do the pillars of India's foreign policy help it address these challenges and contribute towards its image of a credible and reliable partner?
- How can India contribute positively to strengthening the solidarity among the Global South and what are the perception and impact on developing and developed countries of India's advocacy of issues relevant for Global South?
- How can India leverage its multi-aligned policy using its growing geo-economic, political, strategic and cultural connections to contribute to agenda setting and norm making for the future? Will India's rise continue to be supported by global powers?
- Crafting a path for India to become a developed nation within 25 years involves a multifaceted approach addressing various sectors and challenges. What are some of these sectors that India needs to prioritise?
- What are the soft power tools in Indian diplomacy and how have they been used in foreign policy and does India's soft power strategy need a change? What are the challenge and opportunities before India's of soft power?
- How will technological developments shape geopolitics and what are the issues that India needs to be aware of in this sector?

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**Session One**

**1030-1130 hrs IST**

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**Chair**

**Dr. Atul Mishra**

Associate Professor and Head of  
Department, School of Humanities and  
Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University,  
Noida

**Speakers**

**India's Foreign Policy in Contemporary  
Times: Navigating the Ideals of 3V's**

**Ms. Abhigya Langeh**

Research Scholar  
Department of National Security Studies,  
Central University of Jammu

**India's Role in Shaping International  
Norms During Amrit Kaal: Navigating  
Multipolarity and Global Governance**

**Ms. Dipannita Maria Bagh**

Research Scholar, Department of Political  
Science, North-Eastern Hill University,  
Shillong

**Recalibrating Diplomacy: India's Strategic  
Responses to Global Geopolitical Shifts**

**Mr. Rupesh Kumar**

Research Scholar, Department of Political  
Studies, Central University of South Bihar  
Gaya

Discussion

Closing Remarks by Chair

**Tea/Coffee Break**

**1130-1200 hrs IST**

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## Session Two: Indian Foreign Policy and India as a Net Security Provider

- India has emerged as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region, which also includes maritime security cooperation, conducting hydrographic surveys, anti-piracy and maritime terrorism operations such as off the coast of Africa, escorting merchant ships and other civilian vessels such as in the Red Sea and ensuring the safety of crew members. What are the future security challenges that India may face and how can it partner with other nations to overcome them?
- India has extended Lines of Credit for defence and has provided military equipment such as Dornier aircraft, radars etc to enhance the maritime security capacity of partner nations. How can India contribute to a more robust regional security architecture?
- India is the “first responder” during natural disasters such as earthquake, tsunami etc and humanitarian emergencies such as evacuation of people, medical response during the pandemic etc. How has this contributed to India relations with nations in the region?



**Chair**

**Capt. Yogendra Prakash Sharma**

Deputy Director

National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

**Speakers**

**India's Evolution as Regional Security Actor: From Reticence to Net Security Provider**

**Mr. K. Navaneeth**

Research Scholar

School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

**India as a Net Security Provider: Strategic Convergence and the Future of India-U.S. Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**

**Mr. Uday Nitin Patil**

Research Scholar, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal

**India as a Net Security Provider to Island Nations in the Indo-Pacific**

**Ms. Vidhi Rathore**

Research Scholar, School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Vadodra

Discussion

Closing Remarks by Chair

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### Session Three: India's Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation

- How has India's economic growth influenced India's foreign policy and its approach to development cooperation with partner nations?
- India's approach to development cooperation has been comprehensive and involves multiple instruments. How India's development cooperation programmes have benefited partner nations especially in the neighbourhood and in Africa? How can India enhance its programme to help capacity and capability building in partner nations? How can the scope and spread of India's development cooperation be enhanced and what are the prospects for its growth in other regions?
- India intends to become a technology and manufacturing hub in the near future and take advantage of its geo-strategic location to build resilient global supply chains. What can India do to bridge infrastructure and connectivity gaps, especially in the digital sector among its Global South Partners? How can it foster more collaboration in technology and innovations sectors and become a hub for this sector?
- What are the sunrise sectors in India's growing development partnership programme?
- What will be the role of science and technology in the India foreign policy of the future? How can India contribute to research and development for innovation, skill development and training that would be demanded by the modern technology driven economy not just domestically but internationally?
- Can India Become a Green Superpower as sustainable growth becomes a strategic imperative and India is showcasing business opportunities for foreign investment in sustainability and clean energy sectors?

**Chair**

**Dr. Dhananjay Thripathi**

Associate Professor & Chairperson  
Department of International Relations,  
South Asian University, Delhi

**Speakers**

**Development Cooperation in India's  
Foreign Policy: Shaping a Global Role in  
Amrit Kaal**

**Mr. Dev Mishra**

Research Scholar, Department of Political  
Science and Public Administration, Dr.  
Harisingh Gour Vishvavidyalaya, Sagar

**Strengthening India's Foreign Policy in the  
Amrit Kaal – Opportunities and Challenges**

**Mr. Jagesh Kumar**

Research Scholar, Faculty of Political  
Science and International Relations,  
Central University of Himachal Pradesh,  
Dharmshala

**India's Foreign Policy and Development  
Cooperation with Africa: A Strategic  
Partnership for Sustainable Growth**

**Mr. Adarsh Singh**

Research Scholar, Centre for Development  
Studies, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj

Discussion

Closing Remarks by Chair

Distribution of Certificates to Participants

**Lunch**

**1400 hrs IST**

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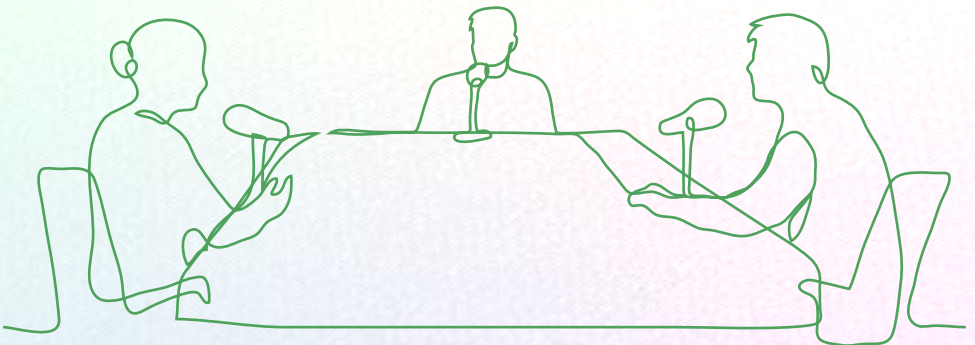




**BIO-PROFILES OF SPEAKERS  
AND  
ABSTRACTS**



## INAUGURAL SESSION





## Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar

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**Additional Secretary, ICWA**

Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar is an Indian diplomat. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1996. She is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), India's oldest and leading foreign policy think tank based in New Delhi. In her present assignment, she oversees the Council's myriad activities that contribute to the shaping of India's views on international relations and to the contours of Indian Foreign Policy. These activities range from curating conversations and discussions, lectures of visiting foreign dignitaries, dialogues with international partners, national outreach to universities and think tanks, the Council's various publications and overseeing the research work of the in-house research faculty.

During her 29 years of service, Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar has gained expertise in the working of institutions of global governance having done a stint at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. She has served twice in the Indian Embassy in Moscow and is known as a Russia hand in the Indian Foreign Service. In the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, she has looked after India's relations with West European countries and the Ministry's Parliamentary work as Joint Secretary of the Coordination & Parliament Division. A key area of Interest and expertise of Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar is Disarmament and Non-Proliferation having served as Desk Officer for four years in the Ministry on the subject.

Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar has edited several book projects of ICWA viz; 70 Years of India-Japan Diplomatic Relations: Reflections and Way Forward co-edited with Jojin V. John (2023); India's Development Partnership: Expanding Vistas, co-edited with Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee (2023); Advancing Reformed Multilateralism in the Changing World, co-edited with Deepika Saraswat (2022); Women and Power: Gender within International Relations and Diplomacy co-edited with Ankita Dutta (2022); Road, Winds, Spices in the Western Indian Ocean: The Memory and Geopolitics of Maritime Heritage, co-edited with Pragya Pandey (2022); Gandhi and the World, co-edited with Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee (2022); 1982 UNCLOS: Perspectives from the Indian Ocean, co-edited with Vijay Sakhuja & Pragya Pandey (2021); Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography, co-edited with Vijay Sakhuja (2021).

Smt. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar is a Post Graduate in Economics.



## Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit

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### Vice Chancellor, JNU

Born on 15 July 1962 at Leningrad [now Saint Petersburg], Russia [the former USSR]. Educated in Chennai at the Presidency College, both B.A. and M.A. Topper and Gold Medallist; Completed M.Phil and Ph.D in International Politics from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New-Delhi; Post-Doctorate in Peace and Conflict Studies from the Uppsala University, Sweden.

Appointed as the first woman and alumna Vice Chancellor of India's top University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New- Delhi. Joined on 7 February 2022 for a period of five years. Teaching and Research career spanning over three and half decades beginning with lecturer at the Goa University from 1988 and in 1991 joined the University of Pune, now Savitribai Phule Pune University. Previously Professor [since 2006] in the Department of Politics and Public-Administration holding the additional charge of Director-International Centre, since 2001-2007. Published four books and edited two. Have published several research papers and widely traveled. Completed several projects both major and minor. 30 students have completed their Ph.D under my supervision and 8 M.Phils. At present 4 students are working for their doctorate under my supervision. Was the General Secretary of the Pune University Teachers' Association from 1996 to 2009. Was elected to University of Pune Senate and Management Council [Syndicate] 2001 to 2006]. On several Universities, board of Studies as an expert in my areas of teaching and research -

International Relations, Asian Studies, Culture and Foreign Policy, Conflict, Violence and Gender. Member of several national academic and research bodies from 2015 and continue until now.

Languages Known – Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Hindi, Sanskrit, English. Can understand Kananda, Malayalam and Konkani.

Published several research papers & books. A few given below.

- Parliament and Foreign Policy in India, New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers, 1990.

- “Restructuring Environmental governance in Asia-Ethics and Policy”, [Sole editor] [Hongkong: City University Press,2003].

- Cultural Diplomacy: Buddhism and India's Look East Policy [ co-author Dr.Rimli Basu] [2012] Lambert Academic Pub. [978-3-8465-8021-9].

- Retreat of the State: Implications of Drug Trafficking in Asia [ co-author Dr.Rimli Basu] [2012][978-3-659-12896-7].

- Edited- Prof. Amulya. K. Tripathi, Orissa, D. SantishreePandit, Pune, RoshniKujur. [ Eds “Understanding Post 9/11 Cross –Border Terrorism in South Asia “. My chapter is “Indo-Sri Lanka Relations in the ‘Post –LTTE period ”, ESS Publisher, New Delhi, 2016. ISBN: 978-93-80036-84-7. [ Second Author- Dr. RimliBasu]

- Edited-Book: Covid-19 Crisis and the Future of Higher Education in India [2022] KVS Sarma; Santhishree Dhulipudi-Pandit; Saraswathi Unni; Raosaheb Bawaskar

- Edited Book -Transformation of India's Foreign Policy: Shaping the Global Order as Responsible Player [New Delhi: Knowledge World, 2024].

- Reflections of an Unconventional Mind [ New- Delhi : Knowledge World, 2025]

- Chapters in more than 40 books . So far published several articles in “The Hindu”{Madras}, “News Today”[Madras], Gomantak Times[Panaji], Sakal [Pune] and several “Letters to the Editors.

Monthly column on International affairs in the New Swatantra Times' {Hyderabad} Weekly column in Sunday Guardian.

Published several Book Reviews in New Quest, Freedom First, Bhavan's Journal, International Studies, Indian Journal for Political Science, Indian Journal of Foreign affairs, Diplomatist. Editorial board of research journals. Weekly column in The Sunday Guardian. Chief Editor –Journal of International Studies [Sage] and on the Advisory Committees of two international journals.

Served as Vice- President of IPSA [2012-2015] and President [2021, December].Member of Government of India national committees like NAAC CSIR, ICSSR, ICCR, IIAS, MAKAIAS MPISSE; President of India has nominated to several Central Universities as his nominee on Selection Committees. Member of Academic councils of University of Pune, and several other universities of India; as subject expert and up-gradation of syllabus; Guide and Consultant for students appearing for the Civil Services and career counseling; held positions on several academic and professional bodies. Have been active in student and cultural organizations; connected with the working of a few social service institutions; founding member of two organizations working for society, New Life for India movement and Youth Forum for Gandhian Studies. Conferred with the honorary rank of Colonel by the Ministry of Defence for contributions to National Cadet Corps in January 2024.

### **Several awards**

Best All round student in Std XII- Adarsh Vidyalaya, Chennai.

Youth Forum For Gandhian Studies, Chennai- Woman Educator Award 2003.

Wisetex award for Women leaders in the next decade- Eduaction 2004.

Veer Savarkar Award for Education field, Pune, May 2010

Smt. Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Award May 2022



World Peace Award 2022

Deendayal Upadhaya Award 2023

Business India Women Top Women Educationists 2022 , 2023,  
2024

India Today 2023,2024 Top Women Leaders in Education

The Week- Top University 2024

Devi award for Excellence in Education, 2024.

**SESSION I**  
**INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND CHANGING GEOPOLITICS**



## **Chair**

### **Dr. Atul Mishra**

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**Associate Professor & Head of Department  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Shiv Nadar University, Noida**

Atul Mishra is Associate Professor of International Relations and Head at the Department of International Relations and Governance Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi-NCR, India. His areas of research include Indian foreign policy, modern Indian international thought, international relations of South Asia, and the politics and strategy of the democracies in contemporary international affairs. His papers have been published in *International Affairs*, *India Review*, *The Economic and Political Weekly*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, *International Studies*, *South Asian Survey*, and *Strategic Analysis*. He is the co-author (with Rajesh Rajagopalan) of *Nuclear South Asia: Keywords and Concepts* (Oxon and New Delhi: Routledge, 2014) and of *The Sovereign Lives of India and Pakistan* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2021). He regularly lectures at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He has written op-eds for *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express*, *Scroll.in*, *360info* and *Dawn* among others, and is currently a columnist for *The Hindustan Times*.



## **Ms. Abhigya Langeh**

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**Research Scholar, Department of National Security Studies Central University of Jammu**

Abhigya Langeh is a Research Scholar in Department of National Security Studies, Central University of Jammu. She has done her M.phil in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University while her Master and graduation is in Political Science from Delhi University. Her interest areas include India's foreign policy, Sino-India relations (historical and contemporary), strategic and security studies in South Asia and Indian Ocean Region.

## "India's Foreign Policy in Contemporary Times: Navigating the Ideals of 3V's"

In recent years, the geopolitical contest has fragmented the global landscape into competing blocs. In response to this, India's contemporary foreign policy is framed by the drive to reconcile its civilizational inheritance with current global realities. Ideas such as Vishwa Guru, Vishwa Mitra and Viksit Bharat encapsulate the contours of this quest for international relevance. As Vishwa Guru, India positions itself as a civilization, emphasising its cultural heritage, spiritualism and democratic values. However, contrary to these concepts, India aims to maintain its relations with its immediate neighbourhood and also facing challenges from its western and northern adversaries as it lobbies for its leadership in multilateral institutions . Likewise, the vision of Vishwa Mitra also assists to shape India's concept of a partnership-based approach. India has expanded its role in South-South cooperation, where it partners with smaller states from the Global South. irrespective of their size of the economy, size and population. Yet a more positive and friendly vision of global relations is contested by the global realignment of power, especially in the Indo-Pacific, and emerging technological and economic blocks, and whether India can be a neutral, friendly partner and not to have a stronger alignment with the emerging powers of the world.

Viksit Bharat is a reminder of the contradictions of India's foreign policy, as the nation struggles with internal issues of socio-economic inequality, regional instability and a polarizing political environment, which overshadows India's positive intentions and aspirations. The paper attempts to methodologically focus on the discourse analysis of official policy documents, speeches of key leaders, and lived experience; while also providing generous historical engagement that demonstrates

the journeys and evolution of each of the outlined concepts in India's foreign policy formulation. Through a critical engagement with the limitations of India's foreign policy ambitions, the study assess the conception of India as a natural global leader. The paper argues that India's success at navigating the global geopolitical landscape requires a normative reformulation synchronizing to domestic and global realities.



## **Ms. Dipannita Maria Bagh**

**Research Scholar, Department of  
Political Science, NEHU, Shillong**

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Dipannita Maria Bagh is a doctoral researcher in Political Science at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, specializing in South and Southeast Asian geopolitics and international relations. Her doctoral research titled 'Sino-U.S. Contestation in Myanmar (2011-2020): A Study', a decadal study examining the complex interplay between Sino-U.S. relations and Myanmar's democratic evolution from 2011 to 2020, offering crucial insights into how great-power dynamics shape political trajectories in Southeast Asia. Building on her academic foundation from the University of Calcutta, where she completed her M.A. in South and Southeast Asian Studies (2013-2015) and M.Phil. in Foreign Policy Studies (2017-2019), Miss Bagh has developed particular expertise in India's eastern neighbourhood, particularly in Bangladesh and Myanmar studies. Her commitment to regional scholarship is evidenced by her language certifications, including beginner-level Burmese language at the Institut Francais de Birmanie (2016), Yangon, Myanmar) and a one-year diploma from the Centre for Myanmar Studies, Manipur University (2020). Her research portfolio includes contributions to policy-oriented projects. Under the guidance of the late Professor (Emeritus) Hari Shankar Vasudevan, she conducted comprehensive research on Bangladesh's electoral politics for the Ministry of External Affairs, Kolkata Bureau (2018-2019); and later a Research Assistant at the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, she investigated Myanmar's political transformation and its regional



implications (October 2018-March 2019). Miss Bagh's work bridges academic research and policy analysis, focusing on the intricate relationships between democratic development, regional politics, and great-power dynamics in South and Southeast Asia.

## India's Role in Shaping International Norms During Amrit Kaal: Navigating Multipolarity and Global Governance

Abstract: India's rising global influence in governance is evident as the twenty-first century moves to a multipolar world order during Amrit Kaal, leading up to 2047, the centenary of India's independence. This paper investigates how India's aspiration to become a developed nation shapes its foreign policy. It examines how India balances its core principles—strategic autonomy, multilateral and multi-vector foreign policy, and commitment to a rules-based international order—with the complexities of modern global challenges. The analysis focuses on India's efforts to preserve its diplomatic pluralism, illustrated by studying key dimensions contributing to India's domestic transformation and its contribution to norm-making in the international order. These areas are economic diplomacy, reformed multilateralism, maritime governance, and climate action. Findings reveal that India's normative contributions are unique, emphasizing “development with dignity,” a framework that integrates economic growth, environmental sustainability, digital inclusion, and social fairness.

The study also underscores the significant impact of India's 2023 G20 presidency, which set new benchmarks for inclusivity by actively involving the Global South. This inclusive approach is expected to gain momentum with India's economic and diplomatic influence. As the paper highlights, India's leadership roles in the 2025 Quad Leaders Summit, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) will further bolster global and regional maritime governance.

India's influence on global standards during the Amrit Kaal is not just a matter of influence but a transformative force that depends on factors such as demonstrating the success of its development

model, unifying diverse groups, and providing solutions to global challenges. This transformation significantly affects the understanding of how middle powers influence global governance in accentuated areas of a multipolar world.



## **Mr. Rupesh Kumar**

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**Research Scholar, Department of  
Political Studies, Central University of  
South Bihar, Gaya**

Mr. Rupesh Kumar is a research scholar from the Department of Political Studies, Central University of South Bihar. His research focuses on East Asia region, Geopolitics, Foreign Policy and Critical Minerals aspects. His tentative PhD topic is on Global Semiconductor Geopolitics and India under the supervision of Prof. Pranav Kumar, his research delves into the complex dynamics of global semiconductor geopolitics and India's strategic positioning within this critical sector. He has presented papers in national and international conferences. He has done graduation in Political Science (Hons.) from Patna University, followed by a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Central University of South Bihar. He further advanced his academic journey by completing M.Phil. at Mahatma Gandhi Central University in East Champaran. He has also published several papers in UGC CARE/Peer reviewed journals. He has also fulfilled role as a field investigator in ICSSR Sponsored Project titled "Higher Education Social Responsibility in India: A Comparative Study of Four Central University".

## Recalibrating Diplomacy: India's Strategic Responses to Global Geopolitical Shifts

India's foreign policy has undergone significant transformation in recent years, reflecting the country's evolving priorities amidst the shifting geopolitical landscape. This paper will analyze India's strategic responses to global geopolitical shifts and their impact on the country's diplomatic objectives. As one of the world's fastest-growing economies and a key player in regional and global politics, India's approach to foreign policy is marked by a blend of continuity and change, driven by both historical legacies and contemporary challenges. Within the increasingly multipolar international context, India has recalibrated its diplomatic strategies to navigate complex international relationships and assert its influence on the global stage. For instance, engaging with major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia has been paramount. India has sought to balance these relationships, maintaining strategic autonomy while deepening partnerships to advance its economic and security interests. Regionally, India's foreign policy has emphasized strengthening cooperation within South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Initiatives to enhance connectivity, promote economic integration, and address security challenges are central to India's regional strategy. India's engagement in multilateral diplomacy through forums such as the United Nations, BRICS, QUAD and the G20 is notable. By actively participating in these institutions, India aims to promote its interests and advocate for reforms that better reflect the interests of developing countries. Economic diplomacy, a key driver of India's foreign policy, focuses on securing access to markets, resources, and technology. India's trade and investment strategies, including participation in regional trade agreements and efforts to attract foreign investment, exemplify this approach. Alongside economic diplomacy, soft power and cultural diplomacy play crucial roles in enhancing India's global influence. Leveraging its rich cultural heritage and democratic values, India has used

cultural diplomacy, development assistance, and diaspora engagement to build goodwill and strengthen bilateral relationships. Defense and security have also seen significant emphasis in India's foreign policy recalibration. Strengthening military capabilities and strategic partnerships has been a core focus, addressing emerging threats and participating in security alliances and initiatives. India's defense cooperation and counterterrorism efforts exemplify this. Together, these strategic adaptations reflect India's pragmatic approach to navigating contemporary geopolitical complexities. By balancing relationships with major powers, strengthening regional cooperation, engaging in multilateral diplomacy, promoting economic interests, leveraging soft power, and enhancing security, India reinforces its position as a key global player while maintaining strategic autonomy. Consequently, India's recalibrated diplomatic strategies reflect a balanced, multifaceted approach to navigating the complexities of the modern geopolitical environment. The country's ability to adapt and strategically position itself to influence global politics signifies both opportunities and challenges as it continues to play a pivotal role in regional stability and global governance.

**SESSION TWO**  
**INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND INDIA AS A NET SECURITY PROVIDER**





**Chair**

**Capt. Yogendra Prakash Sharma**

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**Deputy Director National Maritime  
Foundation, Delhi**

Captain Yogendra Prakash Sharma was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1995. He is a graduate of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and has specialised in Signal Communications and Electronic Warfare. As a specialist, he has served on board Indian Naval Warships Viraat, Betwa and Kora as Signal Communications/ Electronic Warfare Officer and has also been the Commanding Officer of a Seaward Defence Vessel. He has also served in operational appointments ashore which include staff tenures at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy), Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and Communication Network Centre (Delhi). His training assignments include Instructional Staff at the National Defence Academy, Naval Training Base at INS Chilka and a deputation tenure at Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T).

Captain Sharma's background is largely in Naval Operations, Administration and Capacity Building of Civil Services officers. He holds Masters degrees in Telecommunications, Human Resource Management and Public Administration. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management Studies from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai, and a Diploma in Training & Development. For over a decade, he has served as a guest faculty member and speaker at prominent Central Training Institutes and establishments across the nation, including those in Delhi. His engagements have included esteemed institutions

such as Indian Institute of Public Administration, National Postal Academy, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Delhi Judicial Academy, National Thermal Power Corporation, Central Information Commission, Competition Commission, CRPF and CBI Academy etc.

He is currently appointed at the National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi, as a Research Fellow and Deputy Director. His areas of research interest include Maritime Security and Enhancing Maritime Consciousness.



## **Mr. K. Navaneeth**

**Research Scholar, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam**

Research Scholar enrolled at School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, under Prof.Dr. C Vinodan. Also associated with the Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies.

Current area of research is in Non-Traditional Security threat focussing on climate change, its impacts on National Security Strategy formation and bilateral cooperation. Is a recipient of UGC NET-JRF in Defence and Strategic Studies in 2022.

Completed masters from Pondicherry University in International Relations and Bachelors in Economics from University of Calicut. Interested areas of research include: Security Studies, Civil-military relations and Defence transfers.

## India's Evolution as Regional Security Actor: From Reticence to Net Security Provider

India's embrace of the "net security provider" role since the early 2010s represents a significant shift in its security outlook and foreign policy. Despite contributing to regional security for decades, India has historically been hesitant to explicitly articulate itself as a security actor on the regional or global stage. This reticence stemmed from a complex interplay of factors, including its non-aligned stance during the Cold War, a focus on internal development, and a desire to avoid entanglement in great power rivalries. The adoption of the NSP designation, therefore, marks a fundamental departure, signalling India's growing confidence and willingness to assume greater responsibility for regional and international security. This shift reflects a recognition of its increasing capabilities, its expanding strategic interests, and the evolving geopolitical landscape. While embracing the NSP role, India carefully maintains its strategic autonomy, resisting external pressures that might constrain its decision-making. This is evident in its selective engagement with US-led initiatives, such as opposing certain "freedom of navigation" exercises while actively participating in the annual Malabar naval exercises. This nuanced approach underscores India's commitment to charting its own course in the realm of security role and cooperation. This paper is an attempt to map the evolution of India's role as NSP, focusing on its commitments, performance, and future priorities. In doing so the paper identifies three salient features that encapsulate the evolution of India's role as a Net Security Provider. First, a geographical expansion of its security focus from the Indian Ocean to the broader Indo-Pacific region. This reflects India's growing strategic interests in the wider region and its recognition of the interconnected nature of security challenges across the maritime domain. Second, an expansion in the scope and kind of security commitments

undertaken. While maritime security and disaster management, with the Indian Navy as a key actor, still constitute a significant portion of India's NSP activities, its engagement has broadened. This includes greater involvement in areas such as counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and humanitarian assistance, demonstrating a more comprehensive approach to regional security. Third, a growing emphasis on partnerships and issue-based coalition-building to enhance the effectiveness of its regional security role. This is evident in India's leadership in initiatives like the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and active participation in multi and multilateral forums and its strengthened bilateral security cooperation with various partners, reflecting a recognition of the importance of collaborative approaches to address shared security challenges.



## Mr. Uday Nitin Patil

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Uday Nitin Patil is a Dr. T. M. A. Pai Fellow and Doctoral Scholar at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. He holds an M.Sc. in Defence and Strategic Studies from Savitribai Phule Pune University and has qualified for the UGC NET. His Ph.D. research focuses on the post-Cold War American foreign policy-making towards China in the security realm. His broader research interests include U.S. Grand Strategy, U.S.-China relations, and great power competition in the Indo-Pacific. Uday's publications have appeared in STSfor, East Asia Forum, ORF, and The Hindu.

## India as a Net Security Provider: Strategic Convergence and the Future of India-U.S. Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

India's emergence as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has reinforced its strategic partnership with the United States, driven by shared interests in maritime security, regional stability, and defense technology collaboration. As security challenges in the Indo-Pacific become more complex, India and the U.S. have deepened their cooperation through joint military exercises, intelligence-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives for smaller regional states. This paper examines how India's evolving role as a security provider aligns with U.S. strategic interests and how their partnership contributes to a more robust regional security architecture.

Maritime security has been a central pillar of India-U.S. engagement, with both nations focusing on securing critical sea lanes, countering piracy, and strengthening maritime domain awareness. India's participation in the Malabar naval exercises and joint patrols with the U.S. Navy underscores its growing responsibility in ensuring regional stability. Additionally, India has provided defense equipment, hydrographic surveys, and training programs to smaller Indo-Pacific nations, reinforcing its position as a regional security guarantor. The U.S. has supported these efforts by enhancing India's maritime surveillance capabilities through intelligence-sharing mechanisms and technology transfers.

Defense cooperation has also expanded significantly, particularly through the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) and India's designation as a Major Defense Partner (MDP). Foundational agreements such as LEMOA, COMCASA, and BECA have enabled real-time intelligence exchange, logistics cooperation, and joint defense technology development. India's defense exports, including patrol vessels and radars, have

complemented U.S. efforts to strengthen regional partners against emerging security threats. The co-development of advanced defense technologies, including drone systems, missile platforms, and cyber security frameworks, has further cemented their partnership.

Beyond traditional defense engagements, India and the U.S. have collaborated on broader security initiatives within multilateral frameworks such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad). The Quad's emphasis on infrastructure development, supply chain resilience, and maritime capacity-building aligns with India's role as a net security provider. Moreover, India's role as a first responder in regional humanitarian crises, including natural disasters and medical emergencies, has strengthened its credibility as a stabilizing force. The U.S. has recognized India's leadership in these efforts, fostering deeper coordination in disaster relief and emergency response operations. However, challenges persist in fully aligning India-U.S. security cooperation, particularly in navigating India's strategic autonomy, trade disputes, and its historical defense ties with Russia. Despite these challenges, the partnership remains resilient, driven by the necessity of maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Going forward, institutionalizing defense cooperation, enhancing joint military training, and expanding engagements in emerging security domains—such as artificial intelligence, space security, and cyber defense—will be critical in strengthening India's role as a regional security provider.

This paper will analyze India's evolving role as a net security provider, its strategic convergence with the U.S., and the impact of their cooperation on regional security. It will assess the effectiveness of existing security frameworks, explore potential areas for expansion, and evaluate the long-term trajectory of India-U.S. defense collaboration in an increasingly contested Indo-Pacific.





## **Ms. Vidhi Rathore**

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**Research Scholar School of  
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Vidhi Rathore is an alumna of the University of Delhi, having earned a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science from Maitreyi College in 2019 and a Postgraduate degree in Political Science from Kamla Nehru College in 2021. She cleared the UGC NET with JRF in Political Science in 2022 and is currently pursuing her Doctoral degree at the Department of International Politics, School of International Studies, Central University of Gujarat. Her research interests focus on Indian Foreign Policy and power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

## India as a Net Security Provider to Island Nations in the Indo-Pacific

India's foreign policy evolved notably over the past few years, emphasising more on regional security, global stability, and strategic autonomy. The concept of India as a "Net Security Provider" has emerged as a key aspect of India's foreign policy, particularly in the context of the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific region emerged as the crucial arena of global geopolitics, having vital sea lanes of communication, critical maritime trade routes, and significant strategic and economic interests for all. The emergence of the Indo-Pacific as a new geographic space which brings together the Indian and the Pacific Oceans began to represent the strategic reality of the twenty-first century. India is positioned at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and has increasingly recognized its responsibility to ensure regional stability and contribute to maintaining peace and security in the region. Therefore, this paper focuses on India's engagement with strategically important Island Nations of both Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean which are not only geographically significant but also face unique vulnerabilities due to their size, location, and exposure to natural disasters and geopolitical instability. As Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in the summit 'Samanvay 2022' in Agra said that "Asia, particularly the Indo-Pacific region is vulnerable to the impact of climate change, expressing confidence that the participation of national stakeholders with friendly nations will further enhance disaster management capabilities", therefore India plays a crucial role in supporting these nations, by enhancing both their maritime security capabilities and also by providing humanitarian assistance, capacity-building, and disaster relief. India's defense cooperation with these nations including joint naval exercises, security assistance, and infrastructure development, reinforces its position as a regional security provider. With the rise of China, emerging challenges such as maritime terrorism, piracy and natural disaster have

underscored the need for a concerted regional security framework. Thus the paper will concentrate on India's role in the Indo-Pacific region's security architecture as well as changes in its foreign policy with reference to India's relations with island nations. The paper will analyse India's diplomatic efforts, naval capabilities, and security cooperation programs that are meant to bring about peace and stability in the region. Thus the paper will concentrate on India's efforts to become net security provider for the Island Nations and the strategic alliances it requires in order to meet the Indo-Pacific region's evolving security needs. It will also look into how India's humanitarian and disaster response efforts contribute in influencing its relations with the Island Nations and maintaining regional stability. Furthermore, the paper will discuss the geopolitical challenges and opportunities for India in strengthening its status as a Net Security Provider in the increasingly contested Indo-Pacific region.

**SESSION THREE**  
**INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**



## Dr. Dhananjay Tripathi

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**Chairperson & Associate Professor  
Department of International Relations  
South Asian University, New Delhi**

Dhananjay Tripathi is an Associate Professor (Senior Grade) and former chairperson of the Department of International Relations of the South Asian University (SAU) New Delhi. He has completed his PhD from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in 2010. His research interests include Border Studies, Regional Integration Processes, South Asian Politics, and International Political Economy. Dr. Tripathi's recent publications include *Re-imagining Border Studies in South Asia* (ed) (2020—Routledge Publication), *Co-edited- Afghanistan in Transition: From Taliban to Taliban* (2025—Routledge Publication), and *South Asia: Boundaries Borders and Beyond* (2022—Routledge Publication). Dr. Tripathi has published in peer-reviewed journals like the *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *International Studies*, *Society and Culture in South Asia*, etc. Dr. Tripathi is also the editorial board member of international journals – *Journal of Borderlands Studies* (Taylor and Francis), *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* (Sage Publication), *Estudios Fronterizos* (REF) (open access) and *BIG Review* (University of Victoria). Dr. Tripathi, has delivered lectures at prestigious institutions like the National Defence College (NDC), National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS), and National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT). His articles have been published in various newspapers, including *The Hindu*, *The Tribune* and *Kathmandu Post*. He regularly participates in expert discussions on news channels.



## Mr. Dev Mishra

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Dev Mishra is currently his doctorate from Dr. Hari Singh Gour University Sagar MP in India-Pakistan relations. He has done his from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalya Jabalpur. He has done his graduation from St Stephen's College DU in Political Science and Masters from RDVV. He is interested in politics and international relations.

## Development Cooperation in India's Foreign Policy: Shaping a Global Role in Amrit

Development Cooperation has become a defining pillar of India's foreign policy, particularly during the transformative era of Amrit Kaal, which envisions the nation's ascent as a global leader by its centenary of independence in 2047. This paper explores how India's foreign policy is evolving through the development cooperation and partnerships in the different parts of the world allowing it to navigate an increasingly multipolar and complex geopolitical landscape. It examines India's balancing act between the economic growth and the development cooperation with the partner countries. while reinforcing its leadership in multilateral organizations like the United Nations, G20, BRICS, and the Quad.

A key focus of this study is India's expanding role in foreign policy and development cooperation, which has become a critical instrument for strengthening bilateral and regional partnerships. Through initiatives such as the Development Partnership and platforms like the India-Africa Forum Summit, the International Solar Alliance, and the Global South cooperation, India is leveraging its economic, technological, and humanitarian outreach to enhance its global influence. The paper assesses how India's engagement with the Global South, particularly in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, aligns with its vision of becoming a leading development partner rooted in principles of capacity-building, sustainability, and mutual respect.

Additionally, the paper analyzes the challenges and opportunities shaping India's pursuit of strategic autonomy, including energy security, defense modernization, economic resilience, and geopolitical constraints. Special emphasis is placed on India's growing influence in the global issues and its use of soft power through cultural, civilizational, and educational diplomacy.

This research argues that India's approach of development cooperation is not merely a policy stance but a necessity for maintaining sovereignty, securing national interests, and positioning itself as a responsible global power capable of shaping the 21st-century world order. By critically assessing India's foreign policy strategies and development cooperation during Amrit Kaal, the paper offers actionable insights into how India can harmonize its domestic aspirations with global leadership, ensuring its emergence as a key player in international governance and economic diplomacy.





## Mr. Jagesh Kumar

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Jagesh Kumar has his senior secondary from Senior Secondary School Kiri, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. He has done his graduation and master's in Political Science from Govt College, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Currently, he is a research scholar at Himachal Pradesh Central University, Dharamshala (Dehra), District Kangra. His area of interest include international relations. Currently, he is working on research on India-Uzbekistan relations on An Analysis of Energy Security and Strategic Interest Between India-Uzbekistan Relation.

## Strengthening India's Foreign Policy in the Amrit Kaal – Opportunities and Challenges

Amrit Kaal, India's leading up to its centenary of independence in 2047, is a golden opportunity to reshape its foreign policy and improve its global standing. India's foreign policy must take advantage of current challenges while taking advantage of new opportunities as it strives to become a major global power. India needs to adopt a strategic, multifaceted approach that integrates its national aspirations with the realities of an evolving geopolitical landscape in order to navigate this complex terrain. The principle of strategic autonomy is at the heart of India's foreign policy in Amrit Kaal. This allows India to make decisions on its own that are in line with its national interests, particularly in balancing its relations with important global players like the US, Russia, and China. India must continue to be a member of multilateral organizations like the UN, the G20, the BRICS, and the Quad in order to promote global stability and cooperation while maintaining its sovereignty. India has a big opportunity in economic diplomacy, which will boost its growth by growing trade ties, attracting foreign investment, and improving technological collaboration, while encouraging global collaboration in areas like renewable energy, digital technology, and healthcare. Economic diplomacy also extends to using India's growing consumer market to attract foreign companies, opening new trade and investment opportunities. India should concentrate on maintaining stability in South Asia while promoting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East. India's growing influence will depend on its efforts to improve regional connectivity through initiatives like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and encouraging security cooperation. Nevertheless, obstacles persist, especially in managing tensions with China due to border disputes and Pakistan's ongoing animosity. Furthermore, technological advancements bring both opportunities and obstacles. To secure its global position in emerging technologies,

India must invest in innovation, cybersecurity, and digital diplomacy. Nevertheless, increasing domestic capabilities and international competition make this difficult. In the end, India's foreign policy during Amrit Kaal must be guided by pragmatism, adaptability, and a vision for the future. India may face challenges like geopolitical rivalries, economic uncertainties, and regional instability in the coming decades, but its leadership in global forums, strategic partnerships, and economic resilience can pave the way for a strong, influential, and self-reliant nation



## Mr. Adarsh Singh

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**Research Scholar, Centre for  
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Mr. Singh is pursuing Ph.D. from Centre for Development Studies, University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, under the supervision of Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sharma. His Ph.D. topic is “Relationship between Democratic Governance and its impact on Development: An analysis of Socio-Political Discourses and Welfare Policies in Uttar Pradesh from 1991 to 2015.” He has done his Graduation and Post-Graduation both from Centre for Development Studies, University of Allahabad. He has written Gandhian Perspectives of Swaraj as my Post Graduation Dissertation. He has participated in several seminars and workshops which was organised at Centre or in University. Participated in different talk and speech competition and won the prizes. He has presented paper in National and International seminars at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and Amity University, Lucknow, respectively.

He has done Certificated Course on Gender from Centre for Women’s Studies, University of Allahabad. He has qualified National Eligibility Test (NET) in Social Work and Jainism, Buddhism, Gandhian and International Peace Studies. He has worked as research assistant in project on Child Labour in Rampur District of Uttar Pradesh at G.B. Pant Institute of Social Sciences. He has also worked with Council for Social Development (CSD), New Delhi as a research assistant. Currently, he is assigned with Tanvi Consultancy Services on CSR Project of NTPCs named Girl Empowerment Mission.

## Strengthening India's Foreign Policy in the Amrit Kaal – Opportunities and Challenges

Among the several foreign policies which are making image of India as a global leader and enhancing development cooperation between them, I am choosing the relationship between India and African countries. India's relation with Africa is quite old, shared freedom struggle and have mutual respect for each other's sovereignty. The development cooperation between India and Africa is usually seen from the lens of South-South cooperation where India use to provide financial and technical assistance to African countries to promote their sustainable development. This relationship has evolved significantly, especially in last two decades, and is now crucial element for India's foreign policy. In the paper my focus will be on India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) which was launched in 2008 to bring together heads of state, government officials, and business leaders from India and African countries. The forum serves as a platform to discuss cooperation in areas like trade, investment, education, health, and infrastructure. At each summit, India has pledged various forms of support to Africa, including increased lines of credit, training programs, and technological assistance. At the 2015 IAFS, India pledged \$10 billion in credit for African countries, alongside a commitment to provide 50,000 scholarships and training opportunities for African students. The most recent 2019 summit emphasized further deepening cooperation in sectors such as renewable energy, technology, and peace and security.

There are several challenges too in this journey as

1. Competing interests with China. China growing presence in Africa through its Belt and Road initiative (BRI) is a challenge. India competes with China to secure infrastructure contracts and economic influence, but India emphasizes its approach of transparency and sustainability, which set it apart.

2. Some African countries face political instability and conflict, which can hamper development efforts. India's ability to navigate these challenges, while maintaining long-term commitments, is crucial.

3. Ensuring the sustainability of development projects and monitoring their impact is an ongoing concern. India's development projects in Africa are aimed at long-term solutions, but the implementation and continued support are critical to their success.

Despite these challenges, the future of India-Africa development cooperation looks promising. With its unique position as a rising power with shared historical experiences and challenges, India is well-positioned to continue fostering deeper ties with Africa, contributing to the continent's development while enhancing its own global standing.





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