

## **18BPO64C- INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY- UNIT-4**

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### **UNIT-4 INDIA AND GLOBAL POWERS:-**

**INDIA - AMERICA RELATIONS:** America and India, though being the oldest democracy and largest democracy respectively, remained detached during the cold war. In the post- cold war era turned into strategic allies.

During the cold war, India got tilted towards the Soviet Union after 1971 Friendship Treaty, which was a response to the continuing U.S. tilt towards Pakistan and the beginnings of convergence between US and China. At present, India and US convergence is due to potentially hegemonic china in the Indo-Pacific region.

The visit of the former US president in 2020, further cements the strategic convenience between India and the US.

### **IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS FROM THE VISIT:**

The agreement signed for defence purchases worth \$3- billion, including American helicopters ( **MH- 60 Romeo** helicopters) has led to both sides signalling more Cooperation in defence, military exercises and technology sharing. MoU signed for petronet to invest in American gas company Tellurian.

Along with these two leaders shared strong language in references aimed at China's hegemony in the south china sea as well as the Belt and Road initiative.

However, there was no agreement on the trade deal.

### **DIVERGENCE IN INDIA- US RELATIONS**

Trade Deal: Trade has been a major bone of contention between India and US. India has been referred by the US, as “tariff king” that imposes “tremendously high” import duties.

Donald Trump formulated America First Policy, on the economic dimension, it means reducing the US trade deficits with major trading partners, including India.

In June 2019, the Trump administration decided to terminate India’s benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) scheme, which provides preferential, duty – free access for over \$6 billion worth of products exported from this country to the US.

Also , the US has long demanded greater access to American agriculture and dairy products. For India protecting its domestic agriculture and dairy interests was a major to walk out of the RECP agreement.

**US-Pakistan Equation:** US has softened its position on Pakistan in the last few months, due to the role Pakistan can play in the Afghan deal (between the US and Taliban) , which was signed in February 29, 2020.

In return, Pakistan wants the US to engage with India on the Kashmir issue ( internationalising the Kashmir issue) . Whereas India maintains the view that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and no third party can be engaged in it .

**INTERNAL ISSUES IN INDIA-** India’- US strong strategic partnership is also based on an idea of “shared values” of democracy, rule of law, religious freedom and protection of minorities. However, the revocation of article 370, the new citizenship law and the NRC is testing this shared values principle.

Though the US president maintained that these matters are internal to India, criticism from the US civil society is pushing the US

administration to tell India to bring Kashmir to normalcy and not to go ahead with the new citizenship law followed by the NRC.

### **Convergence in India- US relations:**

In the post-cold war era, India's relationship with the US on defense and strategic issues has strengthened. This is reflected in the following:-  
A change in US export control laws that places India in a privileged category of NATO and non – NATO U.S. allies.

Inclusion of India and South Asia in the US Maritime security initiative. Also , placing Pakistan on the grey- list of the Financial Action Task Force.

The US under its pivot to Asia policy views India as an ideal balancer to check the aggressive rise of China

In order to counter China in the maritime domain, India needs to fully engage with the US and other partners in the indo-pacific region, in order to preserve the freedom of navigation and the rules- based order.

Thus, India- US relation remains critical for the shaping of world order in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In order to realize the full potential of relations, the two governments must now strive to complete the unfinished agreements and set the course for a comprehensive strategic global partnership.

### **INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS:**

There are the bilateral relations between India and Russia. During the cold war, India and the Soviet union had a strong strategic, military, economic, and diplomatic relationship. After the dissolution of the Soviet union, Russia inherited its close relationship with India which resulted in both nations sharing a special relationship. Russia and India

both term this relationship as a “ special and privileged strategic partnership” .

Owing to the bonhomie shared by the countries respective leaders , the bilateral relationship has been further growth and development.

An informal meeting between the prime minister of India Narandera Modi , and the Russian president Vladimir Putin in 2018 at Sochi helped accelerate the partnership, displaying the role of interaction and Cooperation between India and Russia.

The year 2020 saw several geopolitical events that impacted both countries. For instance, the sharpening rivalry between the US and China, the India- China border tussle, the continuing decline in ties between the West and Russia, and now change of leadership in the US.

As Russia and India both desire a multi- polar world,they are equally important for each other in fulfilling each other’s national interests. However, due to the changing geopolitical scenario, the relationship between both countries is not as good as it used to be in the cold war era.

### **IMPORTANCE OF RUSSIA FOR INDIA:**

**Balancing China:-** The Chinese aggression in the border of eastern Ladakh, brought India-china relations to an inflection point but also demonstrated that Russia is capable of contributing to defusing tensions with China.

Russia organized a trilateral meeting among the foreign ministers of Russia, India and China following deadly clashes in the Galwan Valley in the disputed territory of Ladakh.

### **Emerging New sectors of Economic Engagement:**

Apart from traditional areas of Cooperation such as weapons, hydrocarbons , nuclear energy, and diamonds,new sectors economic engagement are likely to emerge- mining , agro- industrial, and high technology, including robotics, nanotech and biotech.

**Combating Terrorism:** India and Russia are working to close the gap on Afghanistan and are calling for early finalization of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

**Support At Multilateral forums:** Russia supports India's candidacy for permanent membership of a reformed United Nations security council and of the Nuclear suppliers group.

### **IMPORTANCE OF INDIA FOR RUSSIA:**

**Balancing China:** Russia and China are currently in a quasi – alliance setup. However, Russia repeatedly reiterates that it does not see itself as anybody's junior partner. That's why Russia wants India to act as a balancer.

For instance, Russia's Far East is a huge landmass that is rich in resources but is sparsely populated and underdeveloped.

Till now, its development has primarily resolved around Chinese dominance and so Russia wants to diversify with the help of India to lessen Russia's growing dependence on China.

### **MAIN CHALLENGE:**

**India Going West:-** China's expansionist foreign policy forced India to shed past hesitations and actively pursue closer ties with the west , particularly the US. This can be reflected in a determined restart of the Quad process and a clearer enunciation of a free and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

**Russia Going East:** The Western countries have imposed harsh economic sanctions towards Russia after the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Russia responded to these efforts to isolate it, by revving up its own Pivot to the East. Russia's Pivot to the East policy is not in synergy with that of the US and subsequently, the relationship between India and Russia suffers.

#### **WAY FORWARD:**

##### **India engaging Russia into Indo-Pacific narrative:-**

India should pursue and facilitate Russia's engagement in the Indo-Pacific. However, Russia's role in the Indo-Pacific will depend on how successful it is in dealing with the fundamental problems hindering its economic development.

**Prioritizing RIC in Indian foreign policy:** India must promote a mutually beneficial trilateral Cooperation between Russia, China, and India that could contribute towards the reduction of mistrust and suspicion between India and China.

**Cooperation at Multilateral forums:** India and Russia continue to share a common strategic rationale for their relationship.

Thus, it is clear that India and Russia still regard each other as valued partners with a Friendship built on deep mutual trust, their foreign policy goals are taking them in different directions.

However, neither India nor Russia wants to be a junior partner to China or the United States. Both countries can trust back to and bolster ties as existed in the cold war era.

#### **INDIA- CHINA RELATIONS:**

The People's Republic of China is the largest and the most powerful country among India's neighbours. China is also the most populous country in the world. India had contacts with China since ancient times.

Like India, China was not a direct colony of any single European power. But it was badly exploited by the European countries. There was the national liberation movement in China and the Indian National Congress supported it. India became independent on August 15, 1947. The Chinese Communist party became to power in China in 1949. After independence, the relations between India and China were very cordial and friendly.

India and China signed an eight years agreement on trade and bilateral relations on April 29, 1954. Under this agreement, India gave up all the territorial rights enjoyed by the British government of India in Tibet

India recognized Tibet as a region of China. By this agreement, China and India pledged themselves to follow the five principles called the Panchsheel in their relations with each other.

According to these principles, each country should have respect for the integrity and sovereignty of the territory of the other country. They should not interfere in their internal affairs. They should not attack each other. There must be equality and mutual benefit in their relations. Finally, they must follow the policy of peaceful co-existence. In brief, their relations must be one of tolerance and non aggression.

The recognition of Chinese sovereignty over Tibet by India strengthened the Sino-Indian relations. The leaders of both countries started taking similar views in many world issues. Both voiced opposition to colonialism, military pacts, and many other western policies in Asia.

However, inspite of the panchsheel agreement between India and China, their relations became worse by 1958 and 1959. Then there were some armed clashes on the borders.

In 1962 it became a big border war between the two countries. Following the Chinese aggression, the relations between India and China remained very weak for many years.

However, in recent years, both India and China are making attempts to improve their relations. The two governments have began serious discussion about settlement of the border issue.

The Indian prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao visited china in September 1993 and signed a peaceful agreement with China. Under this agreement, a joint working groups has been constituted to find an early mutually acceptable solution to border issues. They also emphasized to improve the economic cooperation between India and China. The Chinese leader Li Peng visited India in November 1993 and agreed to enlarge the economic links between India and China.

**WAY FORWARD:** Detailed protocols are in place for troops to handle face-off incidents. The countries need to stick to the 2005 protocol and the 2013 border defense cooperation agreement.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, India and China completed their 70 years of diplomatic relations. Both sides should acknowledge that the situation is precarious, and that the recent days in particular have undone decades of painstakingly negotiated confidence building mechanisms.

For India, the first priority has to be restore the status quo ante at the border as it existed in April. This will require both a display of military strength at the border by standing up to Chinese aggression, and diplomatic work by making it clear to China that its intervention will lead to heavy costs across all spheres of the relationship.



India cannot afford to sever all its economic links with the world's second largest economy, even in the digital space.

Chinese finance will help in sustaining India's start up economy. India can try to replace Chinese products with domestic products in the sectors where it is possible. Further, it needs to boost up its economic relations with other countries.

(For extensive reading refer books)