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India's Global Role by 2047: Foreign Policy, Strategic Autonomy, and Global Governance

Dr. M. Samuel Praveen Kumar
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Pingle Government College for Women (Autonomous), Hanumakonda – Telangana

Abstract
India's emergence as a major global actor is one of the defining features of 21st-century international politics. As the country approaches the centenary of its independence in 2047, its foreign policy trajectory reflects a complex balancing act between national interests and global responsibilities. This paper examines India's evolving role in global governance frameworks such as the United Nations (UN), G20, BRICS, and QUAD, highlighting its pursuit of strategic autonomy in an increasingly multipolar world.
The study incorporates a detailed literature review and analyzes how India navigates geopolitical tensions, economic interdependence, and technological transformations while maintaining its commitment to democratic values and sustainable development. It further explores India's role in shaping global norms on climate change, energy security, and digital governance.
The paper argues that India's foreign policy has transitioned from non-alignment to multi-alignment, enabling engagement with diverse power centers without compromising sovereignty. While India has made significant progress in asserting its global presence, challenges such as regional instability, energy dependence, and technological vulnerabilities persist. The study concludes with policy recommendations aimed at strengthening India's global leadership by 2047.
Keywords: Strategic Autonomy, Global Governance, Multi-alignment, Indo-Pacific, Foreign Policy, India @2047

1. Introduction

India's foreign policy has undergone a significant transformation since independence in 1947. Initially rooted in the principles of non-alignment and peaceful coexistence, it has evolved into a pragmatic and dynamic framework responding to global shifts. In the contemporary era of multipolarity, India has emerged as an influential global actor engaging with multiple international institutions and strategic partnerships.
The vision of *India @2047* envisions a developed, equitable, and sustainable republic. Achieving this vision requires a strong international presence supported by a coherent and adaptive foreign policy. India's participation in major global platforms reflects its aspiration to shape global governance while safeguarding national interests.

2. Literature Review

Scholarly discourse on India's foreign policy highlights a gradual shift from idealism to realism and pragmatism.
C. Raja Mohan emphasizes India's transition toward a more assertive global role, arguing that India is increasingly willing to shape international norms rather than merely respond to them.
Shivshankar Menon underscores the importance of strategic autonomy, noting that India's decision-making is guided by national interest rather than alliance commitments. His work highlights continuity in India's independent foreign policy approach despite changing global dynamics.
Ashley J. Tellis views India as a "leading power" rather than a balancing power, suggesting that India's ambitions extend beyond regional influence to global leadership.
Harsh V. Pant discusses India's adaptation to a unipolar and now multipolar world, emphasizing the shift toward multi-alignment.
From a global perspective, **Henry Kissinger**'s analysis of world order provides a theoretical framework to understand India's role in a transforming international system.
Institutional reports from organizations such as the **United Nations**, **G20**, and **International Energy Agency** highlight India's increasing engagement in global governance, climate action, and energy transitions.

Despite extensive scholarship, gaps remain in integrating strategic autonomy with emerging challenges like digital governance and technological sovereignty. This paper seeks to address these gaps by linking traditional foreign policy frameworks with contemporary global realities.

3. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on India's foreign policy evolution and its global role leading up to 2047. The scope includes:

- Analysis of India's engagement with global institutions (UN, G20, BRICS, QUAD)
- Examination of strategic autonomy as a guiding principle
- Evaluation of India's balance between national interests and global responsibilities
- Assessment of emerging challenges such as geopolitics, energy security, and technology
- The study primarily adopts a political and strategic perspective.

4. Aims and Objectives

Aim

To analyze India's evolving global role and foreign policy strategies in achieving the vision of a developed and sustainable republic by 2047.

Objectives

1. To examine India's participation in global governance institutions
2. To analyze strategic autonomy in Indian foreign policy
3. To evaluate the balance between national and global interests
4. To identify key emerging challenges
5. To suggest policy measures for strengthening India's global position

5. Hypothesis

"India's pursuit of strategic autonomy, combined with active engagement in global governance institutions, will enable it to emerge as a leading global power by 2047, provided it effectively addresses challenges related to geopolitics, energy security, and technological transformation."

6. Methodology

This study is based on **qualitative research methodology**, relying on:

- Secondary data sources such as books, journal articles, policy reports, and government publications
- Analytical and descriptive approaches
- Comparative analysis of global institutional frameworks

7. India's Position in Global Institutions

7.1 United Nations (UN)

India has consistently advocated for multilateralism and reforms in the UN system, particularly expansion of the Security Council. Its contributions to peacekeeping missions and climate diplomacy reinforce its commitment to global governance.

7.2 G20

India's G20 presidency marked a turning point in its global leadership. It emphasized inclusive development, digital public infrastructure, and the voice of the Global South.

7.3 BRICS

Through BRICS, India collaborates with emerging economies to promote alternative financial and development frameworks, challenging Western dominance.

7.4 QUAD

The QUAD reflects India's strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on maritime security, supply chains, and emerging technologies.

8. Strategic Autonomy in Indian Foreign Policy

Strategic autonomy remains central to India's foreign policy. Unlike Cold War-era non-alignment, it allows flexible engagement with multiple global actors. India maintains relations with diverse powers including the United States, Russia, and regional partners without entering formal alliances.

This approach enhances India's diplomatic leverage and ensures independent decision-making in global affairs.

9. Balancing National Interest with Global Responsibilities

India's rise entails increased responsibility in addressing global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and humanitarian crises. At the same time, domestic priorities like poverty alleviation and economic growth remain crucial.

India's initiatives such as renewable energy promotion and digital governance demonstrate its ability to align national development with global contributions.

10. Emerging Challenges

10.1 Geopolitics

The rise of China and Indo-Pacific tensions require careful diplomatic navigation.

10.2 Energy Security

India's dependence on energy imports exposes it to global market volatility, necessitating diversification and renewable energy investment.

10.3 Technology and Digital Governance

Advancements in AI, cybersecurity, and data governance present opportunities and risks. India must ensure technological self-reliance and data sovereignty.

11. Findings

- India has transitioned from non-alignment to multi-alignment
- Its influence in global institutions has expanded significantly
- Strategic autonomy remains effective but faces external pressures
- Emerging challenges require adaptive and forward-looking policies

12. Suggestions

1. **Strengthen Multilateral Engagement**
   Advocate for UN reforms and global institutional restructuring
2. **Enhance Strategic Partnerships**
   Build balanced relations with major and emerging powers
3. **Promote Energy Security**
   Invest in renewable energy and reduce import dependence
4. **Advance Technological Innovation**
   Strengthen digital infrastructure and cybersecurity
5. **Expand Regional Leadership**
   Deepen engagement in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific

13. Conclusion

India's journey toward becoming a global leader by 2047 is both promising and complex. Its foreign policy, grounded in strategic autonomy and multi-alignment, provides a robust framework for navigating global challenges.

By strengthening its role in global governance institutions and addressing emerging issues in geopolitics, energy, and technology, India can shape a more equitable and sustainable world order.

Ultimately, India's success will depend on its ability to integrate domestic development with international leadership, ensuring that its rise contributes not only to national progress but also to global well-being.

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