



India's Path to Power: Foreign Policy

Why in News

Recently, a report titled “**India's Path to Power: Strategy in a World Adrift**” highlighted **several foreign policy recommendations for India** in the present context.

- It underlined that **strategic autonomy, openness and inclusive economic growth** are the key guiding principles.

Key Points

- **Shift of Global Economy:** With the **rise of China and India**, and parallel **decline of European Union and US' hegemony**, the global balance of power is shifting towards Asia.
 - This gets reflected in the **growing popularity of the Indo-pacific region among western countries.**
- **Reinforcing Multipolar World Order:** There is an increasing trend towards **multipolarity** in Asia and the world. It is in India's interest to reinforce this trend.
 - In this context, India should **re-orient its foreign policy** towards mobilising the larger constituency of developing countries and emerging economies with which it has convergent interests.
 - Such interests should be advanced through **reinforcing multilateral institutions and processes.**
- **Maintaining Strategic Autonomy:** Strategic autonomy must go in parallel with the further strengthening of partnerships with the **US, Japan and Europe**, which share India's security concerns and development prospects.
 - Also, India-Russia relations will continue to be relevant in dealing with issues in the region and in responding to global challenges.
- **Keeping Up With Globalisation:** Even though in some respects, globalisation may have stalled, in the past and in the coming future, it will be **driven by rapid technological advancement.**
 - Therefore, in order to enhance its economic prospects and improve the welfare of its people, India **must maintain an outward orientation of its economy.**
- **Managing the Neighbourhood First:** If India wants to play an expanded regional & global role and become a **net security provider**, it needs to better manage the threats and opportunities emanating from neighbouring countries.
 - In this context, India should deal with the **Chinese challenge.**
 - This is because China acknowledges that **India is the only country in the neighbourhood** with the comparable area, population, history, manpower, and scientific and technological capabilities, who can surpass it.
 - It also asserted that **China-Pakistan collusion** demands India to adopt a politically guided strategic approach.
- **Preventing Domestic Politics Affecting Foreign Policy:** There have been several instances where many countries have cited reservations to various domestic policies of India. **Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019** is an example.
 - In this context, domestic policies should reflect inclusivity, reducing inequalities, and delivering core responsibilities of health, education and public security to all its citizens.
 - Also, there is a need to realise that **India's innate cosmopolitanism is derived from its extraordinary diversity.**

Source: IE

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