



INDIA'S PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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ABSTRACT:

After the Covid-19 period, when there is a new arrangement in all fields and the poles of power are constantly changing on the global stage, it is natural to discuss India's position in international politics. India is known as the largest democratic system in the world and the second largest country in the world in terms of population. Even though 25 percent of India's population lives below the poverty line, the world believes that India can play an important role in the world today. The powerful nations of the world are recognizing India's strength. Even so, only a few major nations have a monopoly on global decision-making. India has been demanding permanent membership in the Security Council to break this monopoly of these nations. Many countries are also supporting this demand of India. However, America has a hidden opposition to this and China has a clear opposition. Permanent membership in the Security Council does not mean that India will become a superpower. But why is India being neglected despite its potential? It is natural to ask such a question. Today the world is looking at India as a fast growing economy. India's economy is worth two trillion dollars and there are signs of further growth in the coming years. In terms of GDP, India is emerging as the third largest economy after China and the US. India is also a member of important organizations like International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization. The country is also self-sufficient in terms of food grains, with the majority of the population dependent on agriculture. The country's progress in information technology is spectacular. There is a huge demand for manpower in this field abroad. In the field of space research, India has skyrocketed. Many countries are eager to launch satellites from India. Indian ancient culture is respected all over the world. India has one or more such strengths. So there is no doubt that India can definitely lead the world. Against this backdrop, what is the exact position and role of India in international politics? An attempt has been made to find this through the present research paper.

Keywords : *Independence, Democracy, British Rule, Nuclear Test, International Politics.*

INTRODUCTION :

It has been 75 years since India gained independence. India has seen many ups and downs during this period. What did India have when India gained independence in the fifties? We had nothing but India which was economically very weak and looted by the British. Poor India with a population of fifty-fifty five crores was like this. Even though India got independence as a result of the freedom movement that has been going on for two and a half centuries, but this country did not have the strength to stand as a strong country.

Although the sacrifices of many freedom fighters were responsible for India's independence, it can be concluded that the British economy in England itself also contributed to it. Although the Allies were victorious in World War II, other

nations except the United States suffered huge economic losses. So you can see that during the Second World War, the British made quick moves to restore independence to India. After independence from the British, India got some infrastructure, roads, railway network, English education system, some industries. Although the British did all this for their own convenience, it cannot be forgotten that it was partly beneficial in building a new India.

India's first Prime Minister faced many challenges. The biggest challenge was to keep India united. There was a need to unite India which was divided into over five hundred states. The then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took the bow of India's unification. He merged the princely states with India, becoming

harsh on occasion. They had to take military action against Junagadh and Hyderabad principalities. However, due to disagreements between Sardar Patel and Nehru regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir, this dispute directly reached the United Nations. We have been seeing for the past seventy-seventy five years how much the merger of this institute remained in India during Patel's time has cost India.

Pandit Nehru's tolerant stand became a major issue at the international level. Even today there is no dispute between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. We see that countries are divided in support of this issue. Big nations like America, Britain, France, Russia, Australia never clearly state that Kashmir is an official part of India. While some other Muslim countries including China prominently support Pakistan on this issue. India has fought four wars with Pakistan over this issue. Daily firing from Pakistan in the border areas, assassinations by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists on Indian soil have now become routine. India is still not successful in completely stopping such terrorist attacks. Nehru made India dance by taking the Kashmir issue to the international stage. That is why India became weak at the international level. There is a large group of people in India who think like this. Influenced by Gandhi's thought, Nehru's temperament was naturally composed of calmness and restraint. Nehru realized that aggressive policy cannot be followed if India is to be built. That is why Nehru advocated a separatist policy after independence without joining any military alliance.

What is India's position in international politics today? When it comes to this, it is necessary to mention Nehru's separatist policy. Apart from the Kashmir issue, Nehru's policy regarding other issues can be said to be remarkable. After World War II, when the world was divided into two factions, the US-led alliance and the

Russian-led alliance, it was a big deal to keep oneself neutral. It was necessary for India to maintain friendly and harmonious relations with all without joining any group. There were many newly independent countries like India that did not want to join any group. Along with that, the challenge of building our country was also before them. It was natural that joining any one group meant incurring the displeasure of the other group. So many such countries supported India's separatist policy. Nehru advocated the separatist movement and maintained a parallel distance from America and Russia. Nehru showed that development can be achieved even in isolation. But if this separatist movement became a star for India, the question arises. Because in 1954 India signed the Panchsheel Agreement of mutual cooperation with China, but in 1962 when China attacked India, India was not helped by any other country. This was a huge blow by China. India was defeated in this war. During the war, India lost a huge territory. The India-China border dispute that has been going on since then is still not over. China's invasion of India in 1962 was not a surprise, but a deliberate move. China was convinced that India was economically weak and militarily not strong. In this, China recognized that India was a supporter of separatist policy and no major country would support India. Therefore, if India is attacked, no one will come to India's aid. China knew this. Nehru's separatist policy is still said to be the root of India. Therefore, a similar image of a weak India was created in international politics during that time.

Indira Gandhi, who succeeded Nehru as Prime Minister, rejected her father's tolerant, peaceful policy and adopted an aggressive policy. Indiraji recognized that if you want to create fear in the world, it is necessary to have nuclear weapons. He emphasized on strengthening the country militarily. In the war against Pakistan in 1971, he used aggressive tactics to demoralize

Pakistan. Not only this, but also created a new nation called Bangladesh. By testing in 1974 without succumbing to international pressure, India also gave a message to the world that it is now capable. gave a befitting reply to the terrorist activities in Punjab. By taking one or more such aggressive decisions, the world was forced to take notice of India. It was from the time of Indira Gandhi that India got a distinct identity at the international level. It is during this period that we see an attempt to get closer to Russia, slightly deviating from the separatist policy of the father. Russia also helped India in every possible way. Even today we look at Russia as a true friend at the international level. During this period many industries were established in India with the help of Russia. Russia continued to meet India's oil needs. The reason why India feels closer to Russia than the US is because of the suspicious attitude of the US. America has never expressed its opinion clearly on India-Pakistan issue. Pakistan has not been declared a terrorist state despite knowing that terrorist activities in India are sponsored by Pakistan. On the contrary, it continued to provide financial assistance to Pakistan. It can also be said that it was a plan to weaken India in a way. So we can see that India is leaning towards Russia during this period.

Rajiv Gandhi, who came to power after Indiraji, made India develop in the field of science and technology. He is hailed as the visionary Prime Minister who introduced computers to India. Rajiv Gandhi saw that Western nations were making spectacular progress through technology. He realized that it was essential to introduce technology to India if it wanted to compete with the world and gave special attention to this field. Bringing an Indian computer expert, Sam Pitroda, who was abroad, to India created a buzz in the technology world. Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation for the

dominance of Indian computer experts in the country and abroad today.

While discussing India's position in international politics, the mention of the nineties is inevitable. This was the decade in which the Soviet Union disintegrated. The winds of privatization, liberalization and globalization began to blow in this decade. The then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao recognized this change and resolved to give a new boost to the Indian economy. The then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh's innovative economic policies really turned India's economy upside down. The doors of investment in India were opened for foreign investors. It was during this period that the license rule ended and the slow progressing Indian economy started to run. India started attracting other countries as a big market. India accepted the membership of BRICS and other organizations during the same period. India also praised the 'Look East' policy while emphasizing on improving relations with its neighbours. In this decade, the face of India really changed.

The contribution of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is also important in bringing India recognition at the international level. The Indian economy saw better days during this period as he was an economist of world renown and was himself an economist of world renown with his experience as Finance Minister in Narasihrao's cabinet. During his time, a special achievement can be said to be the cooperation agreement signed with the United States in 2005. This agreement is special because India is not a member of NPT and CTBT. Seven years ago, India also conducted a successful nuclear test. If a country wishes to enter into such an agreement, it is mandatory for that country to sign the NPT and CTBT. India was an exception to this. It was a victory for Manmohan Singh's calm and moderate diplomacy. That a superpower like the US wanted to sign an agreement with India, which is not a signatory

to the NPT and CTBT, was a sign of India's global importance. In 2005 itself, the tripartite highway project of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh was completed. This highway project connecting the borders of the three countries became important. The peculiarity of Manmohan Singh's tenure is that he never visited Pakistan. But he continued to try to maintain smooth relations with this country. Relations with China also remained peaceful during his tenure. Manmohan Singh's work in the economic and environmental fields, which gave special priority to the neighboring countries, gave India a special recognition at the global level.

Nuclear tests were conducted in 1998 during Atal Bihari's tenure. The message was sent to the world that India is capable of maintaining its own security as well as being restrained and calm. After these tests, America imposed sanctions on India. But India did not waver. Every nation has the right to protect itself. India remained firm on this opinion. Later restrictions on India were lifted. These tests proved to be enough to drive a wedge between Pakistan and China. India was recognized as a nuclear-armed nation on the international stage.

When it comes to Indian foreign policy, it remains comprehensive. Currently, she seems to be in a more active mode. Two principles 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East' are important in the foreign policy of the present government. In 1992, the Narasimha Rao government implemented the 'Look East' policy. Instead of 'Look East', the current government prided itself on 'Act East'. Under the Neighborhood First policy, priority is given to trade, infrastructure development, trade relations, information sharing with SAARC countries. At the same time, India is trying to strengthen relations with neighboring countries through financial assistance to SAARC countries, humanitarian development training in this country, assistance

during natural calamities and mutual cooperation.

There is no doubt that India has created a distinct identity on the world stage during the current tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The respect given to the Indian Prime Minister on the international stage is an indication of this. Along with improving relations with neighboring countries, Modi emphasized on strengthening relations with countries outside the Indian subcontinent. The continuous foreign tours are the result of it. We are seeing a huge increase in investment due to the flexibility in the policy for foreign investors. Despite Nehru's isolationist policy, India's current relations with both the US and Russia are cordial. During this period, many nations have also signed agreements with India at various levels.

Modi had tried to send a different message by making a surprise visit to Pakistan in his first tenure. The message was that let's end the bitterness and start a new chapter. But Pakistan has not improved its behavior. Therefore, everyone saw that a tougher stance was taken in relation to Pakistan. Pakistan gave a befitting reply by carrying out a surgical strike on Pakistani soil. The world also took note of this aggressive change in Pakistan's role in the context. India sent a message to the world that we are ready for any attack by implementing the process of modernization of military power. India also learned how to respond to China's aggression in the same language. India has emphasized on strengthening ties with Nepal, Bangladesh. We are witnessing the beginning of a new chapter of friendship with Sri Lanka, which has been estranged from India for the past few decades. It is seen that India's word is gaining importance on the international stage as well. India's role in organizations like BRICS, SAARC, QUAD is becoming important. The picture is that the world is looking at India as a fast growing economy and a successful

democracy. It is a great achievement to get the support of over 150 countries for India's permanent membership in the Security Council. It is an important matter that the world's attention is on India's role even though it is not involved in any military alliance. During the Russia-Ukraine dispute, India is taking a resolution against Russia as the world's most powerful countries. But the world has seen that he remained neutral. Without succumbing to the pressure of America, England and France, India remained firm on its position. We have seen that these big nations bowed down to India's neutral stance. India remained neutral and openly supported Russia. Not only this, India's imports from Russia continue. A country can do this only when its self-confidence is high. Today the world is recognizing the importance of India emerging as a superpower. Therefore, it is imperative for the world to respect India's role.

It is no small matter that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has criticized the stance taken by India in the wake of Ukraine-Russia tension, came to visit India in the second month and praised Modi. Not only this, but huge investment deals are also made in India. Boris Johnson knows that he cannot afford to hurt a country like India. After the Corona period, the crown on the head of America, which was shining as a superpower, has come down and China has started to move as a superpower. China has already caught the eye of America. In this, the rise of China as the number one economic power has come close to America. China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean is also troubling the US. Therefore, the US has recognized that only India can counter China's growing influence in Asia. That's why India's role in QUAD (India, Australia, Japan, America) seems to be important. QUAD's joint warfare exercise has increased to bolster China in the Indian Ocean. America can afford India with a democratic system but does not want a

communist China. Other small countries in the region are also looking at India with hope because China is encroaching on the maritime borders of this small country. India's role in international politics is gaining importance in spite of being an advocate of separatist policy overall.

CONCLUSION :

On the one hand, while India is gaining such dominance in international politics, due to internal politics and decisions, a negative image of India is also being created on the world stage. N. R. C., Article 370, Hijab, Ram Mandir, Gyanwapi Masjid etc. decisions are sending the message globally that this government is targeting a particular religion. The religious card is being played to distract citizens from demonetisation, botched decisions like GST, rising unemployment, corruption and inflation. The ruling party, which does not give importance to issues like roads, electricity, water, education, health, is promoting Hanuman Chalisa and loudspeaker issues. International media has taken notice of this. It should not be surprising if the Muslim nation which is currently standing in support of India, also distances itself from India in the near future. The entire world has seen the manner in which the central government handled the farmers' agitation on the Delhi border. Due to such incidents in a country with a democratic system, the image of the country is tarnished on the international stage. It is necessary for the leadership to know this. Of course the leadership is expected to be profound for this. We are optimistic that India will become a superpower in 2050. But it is not so easy, caste-religion politics needs to be paid attention to. It is necessary to solve the major problems facing India. The country has to move forward by facing the major problems of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, terrorism, Naxalism, border disputes with China. Only then will India

emerge as a superpower in international politics in the coming future.

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