

## SHOWCASE ARTICLE

**Changing World Order and India's Foreign Policy**

**Syllabus:** International Relations

**In News:** The foreign policy of India is being challenged by the changing world order in present time, under the backdrop of Covid-19. This article covers Indian Foreign policy in a holistic manner covering its basis, evolution and challenges it confronts in present times.

**Basis of foreign policy in India :** The fundamental challenge facing Indian foreign policy is to ensure that India engages with the international community in a manner that is both consistent and responsive to contemporary realities. Therefore, our foreign policy has been a mixture of continuity and change. This mandates us to understand the determinants of our foreign policy.

**Determinants of foreign policy**

- **Culture** – India foreign policy is based on the culture of brotherhood, peaceful co-existence and mutual benefits and non-interference. The values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (one world), pluralism and tolerance, non-violence, and an aspiration to become the champion of the countries of the global south, influences our foreign policy. The prime example of cultural influence in foreign policy is International Yoga Day.
- **History:** The bitter experience of **colonialism and imperialism** has influenced the foreign policy of India. The **Freedom struggle** and the support for freedom of oppressed people in Africa and Latin America have led the formative years of our foreign policy. Racial discrimination and colonialism had made India the **champion of de-colonization**.
- **Social structures:** **PM Nehru** mentioned that the "foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy". Social structures includes aspects of population, demography, religion, caste, ethnicity, economy. For example - India's relationship in the neighborhood and beyond with Islamic countries of West Asia. Shared ethnicity has also become source of distrust (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal).
- **Geography:** **According to Napoleon Bonaparte**, "any country's foreign policy is determined by its geography". Most **permanent and stable** factor (topography, climate, location). Example - India's location in **South Asia, along with its access to the Indian Ocean** in the backyard has enabled it to be the net security provider in the region.
- **Economic:** A more integrated economy **necessitates deeper relations with countries**. High economic growth and development form the magnet which attracts both friends and enemies. It provides leverage via aid, technology transfers, and grants.
- **Leadership:** **Individual initiatives remain the most important variable** in various foreign policy, from military to business to quality of foreign policies. However, individual initiatives are **constrained by governmental and social structure**. **According to C. Rajamohan**, Modi's contribution to the conduct of national's external relations has been **the imagination of India as a leading power** in the international system.