

By the early 2000s, India's Monroe doctrine was dead with the strong military presence of a U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, Norway's mediation efforts in Sri Lanka, the defence cooperation agreement between neighbouring countries and China, international diplomacy to restore democratic rule in Myanmar, and the emergence of the United States as the principal interlocutor between India and Pakistan after the Kargil conflict. India's approach has also shifted from excluding powers from the region to working with friendly powers to promote principled and reasonable solutions to conflicts in the region.

7. **Highlight the contributions of the following Presidents of post-independent India:**

(150 words) 10

Approach:

- Briefly write about both the eminent personalities.
- Elaborate upon their contributions separately, in post-independence India.
- Conclude appropriately.

(a) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Answer:

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, an eminent scholar, academician, philosopher and statesman, was **India's second President and first Vice President**. His birth anniversary is observed as Teacher's Day across the country.

Major contributions

- **Philosophy:** Radhakrishnan is counted among India's best scholars of comparative religion and Vedanta philosophy. His defence of Hinduism against 'uninformed Western criticism' has been highly influential in India as well as the Western world. He is also considered '**a living bridge between the East and the West**' for having made Hinduism more readily accessible to the Western audience.
- **Education:** Being a teacher himself, he used to think that '**teachers should be the best minds in the country**'.
 - He held **major positions** in British India including vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, chancellor of the University of Delhi.
 - For services to education, he was **knighthood** by King George V. However, he never used the title after independence, and preferred to use the academic title of Doctor.
- **Administration:** He led the Indian delegation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) during 1946-52 and was elected **Chairman of UNESCO's executive board** from 1948-49.
 - He was sent as India's **second ambassador to the Soviet Union** in 1949-53 at the time of the Cold War. There he managed positively India's relationship with the Soviet Union.

For his immense contribution to post independent India, he was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in 1954.

(b) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Answer:

From being the **people's President** to spearheading the development of the most significant Indian missiles, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has contributed to the development of the country in different spheres.

- **Defence and Aerospace:** As an aerospace scientist, Kalam worked with India's two major space research organisations- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He played a leading role in successful deployment of Rohini satellite; development and operationalisation of India's indigenous missiles (earning him the title of **India's missile man**) and the **Pokhran-II nuclear testing** of 1998.