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Research Paper

India's Foreign Policy Under the Prime Minister of Dr. Manmohan Singh

Political Science

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ABSTRACT

In this paper an attempt is made the foreign policy of India under the Prime Minister ship of Dr. Manmohan Singh. As a responsible Prime Minister of responsible government he has been acting with sincere for India from the very beginning. Several socio-economic and political atmospheres have been changed and he also accepted the supports from the various political parties both by regional and national parties. He has maintained the non-violence policy in foreign policy. He does not support the terrorist attack on Mumbai's oberay, Taj hotel and other parts of India. He also has followed the NAM in foreign policy. Dr. Singh has also been following the regional principle of regional organisation such ASEAN, SAARC others. In 2008, oppose to a Civil Nuclear Agreement with the USA the Left Front parties withdrew their support from UPA-I. During the UPA-I Indian's security both in internal and external was threatened by several terrorist incidents such as a car bomb exploded near an armoured Indian Army vehicle in the famous Church Lane area in Srinagar. Terrorist group Hizbul Mujahidin claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist attack at Srinagar's city centre, Buddha Chowk, on 29 July 2005 and murder of Ghulam Nabi Lone on 18 October 2005, no terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack, Mumbai attacks in 2008 and also Maoist continuing insurgency etc. have emerged in his period.

Introduction: The name of Dr. Manmohan Singh is now very important in the world that became as a Prime Minister into two times in 2004 and 2009 and formed UPA-I&II respectively. He has been serving several key parts in the Government of India such as Chief Economic Advisor (1972-1976), Govern of Reserve Bank (1982-1985), head of the Planning commission (1985-1987), Finance Minister under Prime Minister Naroshima Rao (1991), and opposition leader of the Rajya Sabha during the Prime Minister ship of Atal Behari Vajpayee (1998-2004), as Prime Minister of the UPA-I & UPA II from 2004-2014. The NDA government led by Atal Behari Vajpayee completed five years of term of rule in 2004. Subsequently the 14th General Election of India was held in 2004. The Congress was able to manage a majority of more than335 seats out of 543. The UPA-I was formed with the help of the BSP, SP, DMK, and Left Front under the Prime Minister ship of Dr. Manmohan Singh in 2004. This government executed several key legislation projects including the Rural Health Mission, Unique Identification Authority, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Right to Information Act etc. 15th general election of Lok Sabha was held in 2009.The congress and its allies were able to put together a comfortable majority with support from 322 members out of 543 members of the House.. The UPA-II government was formed under the incumbent of Dr. Manmohan Singh and he got external support from BSP, SP, JDC(S), RJD and other minor parties. He was sworn in as the Prime Minister during a ceremony held at Rastrapoti Bhavan on 22 may 2009. In 2012, the report filed by the CAG in parliament of India states that due to allocation of coal blocks to certain private companies without bidding process the nation suffered estimated loss of Rs. 1.85 lakhs crore between 2005-2009 in which Manmohan Singh denied to appear before Joint Parliamentary Committee in April 2013 in which the DMK leader A.K. Raja alleged involvement of in 2G scam.

Foreign Policy under the Prime Minister ship of Dr. Manmohan Singh:

Dr. Manmohan Singh has continued the peace process with Pakistan by NDA's Prime Minister Vajpayee several efforts have been made by him to resolve the boundary disputes between India-Pakistan, border dispute with China. Chinese president Hu Jintao visited India in November 2006 and Dr. Manmohan Singh visited to Beijing in January 2008. A major development in Sino-Indian relations was reopening of the Nat hula pass in 2006 after being closed for more than four deeds. In 2010, People's Republic of China became the second largest trade partner of India. The Afghan president Humid Karzai visited to New Delhi in August 2008. Dr. Singh extended his hand as largest economic donor for the development of more school, health clinics, infrastructure and defence. Under the leadership of Dr. Singh India has emerged as one of single largest aid donor for to Afghanistan. In July 2005, he visited to US with initiating negotiations over the Indo-Us Civilian nuclear agreement. After 2 years, for more negotiations, followed by approval from the IAEA Nuclear Supplier group and the US congress, India and the US signed the agreement on 10 October 2008 with representing India by Pranab Mukherjee. In November 2009, Singh visited to the White House and took place several discussions including on trade and nuclear power. The relations have improved with Japan and European countries like the UK, France and Germany. Relations with Iran have continued and negotiations over the Iran- Pakistan- India gas pipeline have taken place. In April 2006, India hosted an India-Africa summit and the 15th African countries have attended in the summit. The relations have improved by Singh with other developing countries especially with Brazil and South Africa. Singh carried forward the momentum which was established after the "Brasilia Declaration in 2003 and IBSA Dialogue Forum was formed.

India is a newly industrialised country. India is one of the leaders of the developing countries. India is founding member of several international organisation such as Asian Development Bank, G-20 Industrial Nations and chief founder of Non-alignment movement. India has also played a crucial role in other international organisation, International Monetary Fund (IMF), G8+5 and IBSA Dialogue Forum. India is a part of regional organisation like SAARC, ASEAN. In 2007, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has taken part in several UN Peace keeping Operations. India is now a permanent member of UN Security Council and seeking a permanent membership in UNO. US President Barak Obama visited India in November 2010. He announced that USA will supports in connection for India's entry to Nuclear Supplier Group, Wassenaar Arrangement, Australia Group and Missile technology Control Regime. India has played as strong military relations with other countries including UK, USA, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, South- Africa and Italy. In this connection India operates an airbus in Tajikistan and signed a landmark defence accord with Qatar in 2008.

India is now an active customer of Burmese oil and gas. In 2007, India announced a plan to develop the Sittwe part which would be able ocean access from Indian North-eastern states like Mizoram via Kalaram River. In 2003, India formally recognised Tibet as a part of China and China recognised Sikkim as a formal part of India in 2004. Sino- Indian trade reached US $36 billion in2007. Presently China is made an active single largest trading partner of India. Now, India and China are eager to resolve their boundary disputes which was stopped in 1962. Both India and China have also agreed to cooperate in the field of civilian nuclear energy. Both the countries are the most important and largest Asian investors in Africa. Both are agreed to take bilateral trade up to US$100 Billion on a recent visit by Wen Jiabao to India.

In 2011, India signed an agreement with Maldives on the following issues.

- Two helicopters, one from the Coast Guard was handed over during Antony's visit while another from the Navy will be cleared for transfer shortly.
- Maldives has coastal radars on only of its 26 atolls. India will help setup radars on all 26 for seamless coverage of approaching resells and aircraft.
- The coastal radar chain in Maldives will be network with the Indian coastal radar system. The radar chains of the two countries will be interlinked and a central control room in Indian's coastal command will get a seamless radar picture.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will carry out regular Dornier sorties over the Island nation to look out for suspicious movement or Vessels.
- Military teams from Maldives will visit the tri-services Andaman and Nicobar to observe how India and manages security surveillance of the crucial Island chain.

The Samjhauta Express and Delhi-Lahore Bus Service are the two initiatives are made by both the countries to create healthy contract between the countries. The initiation of Srinagar- Muzaffarabad Bus in 2005 and opening of a historic trade route across the line of control in 2008 are made increased relations between the people of the two countries. The better relations the between has emerged between the two countries on the plea of Mumbai attack in 2008.

India is a largest manufacturing market for Japanese firms. The most prominent Japanese Company to have a largest investment in India is automobiles giant Suzuki which is in partnership with the largest manufacturer in India, Indian automobiles Company Maruti Suzuki. Honda was also a partner in Hero Honda Japan has funded many infrastructure projects in India especially in New Delhi's metro-subway system. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited to Japan culminated in the signing of the "Joint Statement towards Japan-India Strategic and Global partnership" in 2006. In 2007, the Japanese Self-Defence Forces took part in a naval exercise in the Indian Ocean known as Malabar 2007,India , Australia, Singapore, USA were involved with the naval forces. Japan signed an agreement with India under which it would grant the latter a low-interest loan worth US$4.5 billion to construct a high-speed rail line between Delhi and Mumbai. Both the country signed a security cooperation agreement in which both will hold military exercise on fighting terrorism.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh signed at the 3rd ASEAN-India summit in November 2004 on India – ASEAN for peace progress and Shared Prosperity" and setting up of Entrepreneurship Development Centres in ASEAN member states like –Cambodia, Burma, Laos and Vietnam. The following proposals were announced by the Prime Minister at the 4th ASEAN –India Summit:

- Setting up for English Language Training Centres in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, and Vietnam.
- Setting up a tale-medicine and tale-education network for Cambodia, Burma, Laos and Vietnam.
- Organising an India – ASEAN Technology summit in2006.
- Organising education fairs and road shows in ASEAN countries.
- Conducting an India-ASEAN IT Ministerial and Industry Forum in 2006.

India and USA signed the Indo-US Nuclear Pact on cooperation in civilian nuclear field on 2nd March 2006. This was signed during the4 day's state visit of USA president George Bush in India. India would separate its civilian and military nuclear programmes, and the civilian programme would be brought under the safeguards of international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The USA would sell India the reactor technologies and the nuclear fuel for setting up and upgrading its civilian nuclear programme. On 24 November 2009 in the administration of us President Barak Obama, Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the guest of honour at the first state dinner. From 6-9 November 2010 Obama visited India and signed numerous trade and defence agreements with India. He addressed the Joint Parliamentary session of Indian Parliamentary and announced that he would try for a permanent membership in UN Security Council.

The France Minister Nicolas Sarkozy visited India in 2008 and he was the chief guest at Republic Day parade in New Delhi. He signed a nuclear energy co-operation agreement with India, on 14 July 2009, during the Bastille Day, a detachment of 400 Indian troops marched alongside the France troops and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the chief guest of honour. Dr. Singh paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on 20-22 October 2013, at the invitation of the President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. Both have talked the priority areas of bilateral cooperation and noted common positions on current international and regional issues. Both have noted the further strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas like civil aviation chemical and fertiliser industry and mining and automobiles. They agreed to work towards the creation of a Joint Study Group for studying the possibility of signing a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Both sides have also agreed to explore the possibilities of direct transportation of hydrocarbons from Russia to India through the land route. They have agreed with the cooperation in science and technology, educational and cultural cooperation, inter-regional cooperation, cooperation in the field of Disarmament and Non- proliferation, enhancing security cooperation in Asia and Asia Pacific, cooperation among BRICS countries. Both Russia and India believes that the crisis of Syria should not be resolved by force, and could be settled only through political means.

Conclusion: Presently, Indian foreign policy is involved a strongly effort to find political reconciliation between the Pakistan and China. Serious negotiation was made to resolve the Kashmir dispute and at the same time India is also involved in purposeful negotiations to end the long-standing boundary dispute with China. China keeps Aksai Chin in the West, India hold on to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. Dr. Manmohan Singh said about the Indo-China boundary disputes that "negotiations towards a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement" to the border question will be "our strategic benchmark". Dr. Singh told President Xi Jinping that "our relationship with China occupies a very high priority in Indian's foreign policy. We also welcome the interest the new leadership has shown in further developing relations with China".

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