

India and neighbourhood

Background : India is largest country in S. Asia in terms of area, population, economy and military capabilities



Each neighbour shares some special ethnic, linguistic, cultural and historical links with India

- This asymmetry shapes the neighbourhood perception about India. [CHALLENGE OF PROXIMITY]

Issues @ neighbour :-

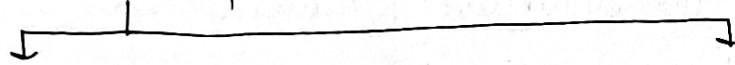
- either excessive & misdirected generosity & accommodation
- or harsh overreactions (Big brother attitude!)

Historically

① During cold war : India was perceived as RELUCTANT power
because it had all the resources but it didn't act or managed to act.

② Panchsheel Agreement : (1954 with China) → "NAM principles"

③ Post cold war policies



S. Asian neighbours

• Policy of Non-Reciprocity
(Goyal's Doctrine, 1998)

• New Neighbourhood Policy
2005

• Neighbourhood First
Policy, 2014

Other neighbours

• Look EAST Policy &
Act EAST Policy

• Look West Policy

• Connect Central Asia Policy

• SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) Strategy for India's
Ocean neighbours

i) Gujral's Doctrine (1998)

5 principles

- ① Policy of non-reciprocity :- Relationship @ neighbours will depend upon India's regional position and not on principle of reciprocity.
- ② No S. Asian country to allow its territory to be used against each other and vice versa
- ③ Non-interference in each other's internal affairs
- ④ Respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity
- ⑤ Settle disputes by peaceful means & bilateral negotiations

ii) New Neighbourhood Policy 2005

- need of regional integration of S. Asian region in the wake of globalization
 - economic & infrastructural : ↑ Connectivity
 - cultural integration
 - people to people contacts

iii) Neighbourhood First Policy 2014 (N. Modi)

- ① Political & diplomatic priority to neighbours by India.
- ② India to provide support (resources, training etc) to neighbours
- ③ ↑ Connectivity & regional integration (free flow of goods, people, energy, capital & information)
- ④ promoting a model of "India-led regionalism" with which all the neighbours are comfortable.
- ⑤ Connecting neighbours by cultural heritage

Reasons of disconnect w/ neighbours

① Unfavourable structural challenges

- ethnic
 - Tamils in S. Lanka
 - Muslims in Nepal
- Border disputes
- River water disputes

② Lack of consensus on building a regional security & development infrastructure

③ Impact of China — Chinacard

Alternative trade & connectivity options available.

④ India's hard power tactics

strategic real estate holdings in various countries (Pakistan, S. Lanka, Maldives etc)

Political mediations by China (ex. in Rohingya issue)
new initiatives like

China - S. Asia Cooperation Forum
(CSACF) [India participated]

large financial initiative; headquarters at Yunnan province

⑤ Political leadership @ various

Countries political leadership

→ Nepal -: KP Oli (not choice of India)

→ Maldives -: Abdul Yameen (" ")

→ S. Lanka -: Sinsena (RAW was alleged for his murder planning)

Suggestions

① Use soft power diplomacy - (Developmental assistance > Defense assistance)

② Change in approach towards China - 3 pronged strategy

③ Learn from ASEAN

→ more informal meets; define boundaries; India take backseat like Indonesia

④ Understand limitations of neighbourhood first policy

→ collaborate w/ China
→ peaceful coexistence @ projects not affecting Indian interest

→ Offer counter projects to projects against Indian interest
(USA, Russia etc)

Panchsheel (5 principles of Peaceful Coexistence) (1954 India-China signed (Zhou Enlai))

- ① Mutual respect for sovereignty & territorial integrity
- ② Mutual non-aggression
- ③ Mutual non-interference in internal matters.
- ④ Equality and mutual benefits
- ⑤ Peaceful coexistence

(First Asia-Africa Conference at Bandung, 1955 adopted these principles too)

Note - What is Tribal Panchsheel ??

Answer : Five fundamental principles put forward by J.L.Nehru for tribal development are regarded as Tribal Panchsheel.

These five principles are :-

- ① Non-imposition : people to develop on their own line of genius
- ② Respecting tribal rights in land & forests
- ③ Tribals to be trained in work of administration & development
- ④ No multiplicity of schemes in tribal areas that overwhelm them.
- ⑤ Results to be judged by the evolution of human characters & not by the amount of money spent.