



# “AN ANALYSIS OF "INDIA AS AN EMERGING GLOBAL POWER: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS"”

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## Abstract

India is celebrating 75 years of independence. In these 75 years, India has witnessed many transformations domestically and internationally (1). We need to articulate our vision, firm up a goal and get people, policies and institutions aligned to the future vision (2). A country that is the abode of over 1/6th of the global population; it is a nation that is vibrant with the dream of its people. India of the 21st century is not just a nation, but a dream—a vision of countless souls aspiring to belong to a strong, self-reliant, powerful and developed nation (3). “Late shri Dr. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India once said, “Dream is not what you see in sleep. Dream is something which does not let you sleep.” The nation is poised for a major power status; but the crucial question is: whether India will be able to achieve that status, because of internal and external constraints (4). The recent covid-19 pandemic had also an adverse impact on growth, employment, health and education etc. In this paper, issues and policies are discussed beyond India@75 for achieving growth, inclusion and development (5). Global issues are crucial for India's growth because of its integration with the rest of the world. Better macroeconomic policies, sectoral policies, higher rates of investment in infrastructure, the use of technology, higher export levels, improved banking and other financial institution performance, and increased exports are all necessary for the country to achieve higher growth. Additionally, one of the largest challenges to progress is corruption. It has the potential to rip society's fabric apart, and it already is. It is one of the biggest threats to development (6).

Keywords: Economic growth, inequalities, health, education, agriculture, industry, services, technology, climate change, sustainability. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), The Characterization Of India As An Emerging Power:

The Global Challenges are transnational in nature and trans-institutional in solution. They cannot be addressed by any government or institution acting alone.(7) Governments, global companies, academic institutions, non-governmental groups, and innovative individuals must work together to address them. Despite being stated in order, Challenge on climate change and sustainable development is as significant to Challenge on global ethics. The powerful states cannot unilaterally dictate the terms of an agreement without running the danger of it ultimately failing (8) More people agree than is apparent in the news media regarding the state of the world as it is represented by these Challenges and the steps being taken to address them..

India is at a crucial juncture, seventy-five after independence. The nation is poised for a major power status; but the crucial question is: whether India will be able to achieve that status, because of internal and external constraints (9) Recent studies from international organizations have painted a huge power picture for India. However, is India making strides in that direction? India was designated as a "Big Emerging Market" by the US Commerce Department in 1995, which is 25 years ago. America and other countries have since been more interested in and invested in India. India is becoming increasingly involved in world politics and the economy. Although opinions of India have shifted, the key question still stands: is India on the verge of becoming a significant power? On the eve of the 75th Independence Day, this article seeks to address this issue and look into potential solutions.

Several commentators suggest that India has the potential to become a global superpower, a state with an extensive ability to exert influence or to project power in much of the world. Factors that contribute to a nation acquiring such clout can be economic, political, demographic, military and cultural (10).

Seventy years ago, similar energy, effort and resolve from all Indians freed the country from colonial rule within five years of the launch of the Quit India movement in 1942. Then, like now, foundations had been laid but a committed acceleration of effort was necessary. The Prime Minister's call for Sankalp Se Siddhi is a clarion call for a radical transformation for a New India by 2022-23 (11).

India at 75 is keen to show the world that it has the capacity for global leadership. Meanwhile, the international order that it inhabits is changing rapidly and the challenges are compounding for New Delhi, making it clear that the road to the global centre-stage will not be easy (12). India must also boost its defence preparations with more allocation in defence budgets. Alongside making partnerships and alliances in global relations, India must be self-reliant when defending national boundaries (13). India has nuclear weapons and the third largest military in the world. In terms of geographical area, population and economic power, India far outstrips its South Asian neighbors'. And now, given its high economic growth that has

touched 8 per cent in each of the last four years, it is also preparing to close in on the world's economic powers. Experts from the media, investment banks and research institutes agree that there is another China in the making, an economic and political powerhouse that will soon overtake Germany and Japan. India will then have fulfilled the economic conditions required of a leading political power that plays a role in moulding international relations (14).

India's emergence on the global radar was the result of many factors (15). Deprived castes and ethnic groupings have been given freedom to flourish in her pluralist, secular democracy. Massive investments poured in as a result of economic liberalization. The transportation industry has undergone a transformation because to excellent roads, rail systems, and air connectivity. A significant space power is India. India's development is the ideal illustration of the potent synergies produced by a sound democracy, an open society, and a strong economy.

The purpose of this study is twofold: Firstly, to study India's potential to become a global power within the next 15–20 years, and secondly, to discuss the consequences of this for the future world order, including the western security system (16) The terms "global power" and "great power" are important concepts in this study. In political science and international affairs, "power" is a key notion. We shall employ a definition for the purposes of our discussion that essentially has two parts: capabilities and political will (which also includes the capacity to implement policies). Today, converting power into influence is the actual challenge. Combining political will and capabilities is required for this. Political will is the capacity to formulate strategic goals and to possess the resources necessary to carry them out.

#### Emerging Global Leader: Analytical Perspectives On India

The senior political leadership of the nation has changed how it views its place in global politics as a result of Prime Minister Modi's push for India to become a leading power. India does not currently exhibit a steadfast determination to increase its power or use it willfully for aggressive purposes. India's deliberate development into a Leading Power. In the 2040s, India is expected to surpass the United States (in PPP terms) and become the world's second largest economy, behind China (17). "Ultimately, foreign policy is the outcome of economic policy, and until India has properly evolved her economic policy, her foreign policy will be rather vague, rather inchoate, and will be groping". Speech by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly, December 4, 1947. (Nehru, 1961, p. 24) (18).

#### Instances of India as an Emerging Superpower:

"Superpower is a state with a dominant position by its ability to influence on a global scale. It's a combination of economic, military, cultural, technological, diplomatic and political spheres". Thomas (2020) (19). The welfare of its citizens can only be guaranteed by a strong state. Pursuit of power is one of the factors that render Kautilya a realist because one of the basic premises in realism is that states seek to

maximize their power and influence (20). Today, in the changed situation, when the nation gazes at its tomorrow, things look brighter than they were before for various reasons. Now, will India be a 'super power' is a question that seeks an appropriate answer. But, we need to define the borders for this term— 'super power' (21).

The elements of power are always shifting, making the global power structure dynamic. The ambiguity about India's position in global powers structure arises from the fact that India is middle power, not having sufficient hard and soft power resources to influence the international system, but at the same time, not lacking in these resources to be a object in international politics (22). Therefore, going as per the above discussion, it is logical to infer that India is emerging as a global leader in the 21th century due to it's all round development (23).

India's Size, Economic Power, and Global Position:

'A nation that doesn't honour its past has no future' – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. In the 20th century, the entire world considered USA, Russia, Japan and some of the European countries as the global leaders (24). In competitive politics, power is essentially manifested as the capacity for domination (25). Participants explored the factors that deter India from gaining great power status. They explained that problems with state capacity, inequitable growth, and internal divisions hamper India's prospects (26). Changing priorities and a lack of concentration have weakened India's military. Or upgrade army navy and military or India's neighborhood policies or India's Positions and Responses to Significant Events in the Neighborhood .India is keen on increasing its military strength. It has the 3rd largest army, 4th largest air force and 5th largest navy in the world. It has about 120 active nuclear warheads and it is equipped with nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers and inter-continental ballistic missiles such as Agni-5. It has been ranked 4th in Global Firepower Index (27). If diplomatic relations is anything to go by, India is the place to understand the importance of a nation being a nuclear superpower (28). 'It's like boy meets girl. We have tried to hold hands but the kissing hasn't started.' Former Indian foreign secretary S.K. Singh, on the US-India relationship Preparing to take up his duties as the new American ambassador in India a quarter century ago, William Saxbe met with the US secretary of state for final instructions (29).

With the war in Ukraine continuing unabated and compounding the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, countries across the globe are struggling to keep their economies stable (30). Although India's recent accomplishment of surpassing the UK to take over as the fifth-largest economy in the world is no small triumph, the fragile economic climate in the rest of the globe and in our immediate neighborhood requires us to keep in mind the challenges still ahead.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI),“estimated India became the world’s fifth-largest military spender in 2016, ahead of France and the United Kingdom”(31). India now has one of the best IT industries in the world, and it is growing. India is now being referred to as a technological superpower.

A superpower is a country which has the capacity to project dominating power and influence anywhere in the world (32).India should fulfill its commitments made in COP26 at Glasgow in 2021. The country also should undertake climate change adaptation and mitigation policies faster than before (33).

In recent decades, India has been slowly climbing up the international hierarchy, increasing its global influence en route to emerging as one of the system’s premier great powers (34).India's extraordinary ascent, combined with China's spectacular rise over the past four decades, further exemplifies the present worldwide shift of economic dominance from Europe and North America to Asia. Together, these patterns portend the real start of the Asian Century, during which major Asian nations will be able to control, command, and eventually define the boundaries of world politics.

## Conclusion

India has everything which is needed to become a superpower but there are a few hurdles in its way which must be crossed. Recent steps taken by government such as demonetization and introduction of the Benami Transactions Bill show the willingness and attitude of the government to push development into India and to make it a global superpower.

Recent trends have shown a positive attitude and have given a ray of hope. A little change in the attitude of people could go a long way in making India a superpower. People must contribute in their own way to improve the economic condition of the country. For instance, they must stop paying bribes to corrupt official; they must responsibly pay tax to the government, etc. These minor changes in the minds of public can go a long way in making India, a global superpower(35). “India stands tall as a space power!” tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi just weeks before securing a second, spectacular landslide win in India’s general election in Spring 2019 by an even bigger margin than many had expected (36).

India has quickly emerged as one of the world's key developing powers because to its fast economic expansion over the past three decades. Also India has gained a strong footing in the international pecking order with the signing of the Indo-US nuclear agreement and significant support for its claim for a permanent seat in the Security Council (37). Relationships between India and its neighbours as well as relations with other major world powers, such as the US, the European Union, Russia, and China; India's policies, influences, and strengths; advancements in the economy, knowledge, and innovation in the context of shifting global realities; geostrategic equations and alliances; India's present and future plans in relation to its position in the world; and how international politics is likely to develop in the upcoming years.

The rise of China and India as major world powers promises to test the established global order in the coming decades (38). NOBODY doubts that China has joined the ranks of the great powers: the idea of a G2 with America is mooted, albeit prematurely. India is often spoken of in the same breath as China because of its billion-plus population, economic promise, value as a trading partner and growing military capabilities (39). It is not surprising that the world is looking curiously at India. But the question is what does India's arrival on the global stage mean for India, for her Asian neighbors', and for the world at large? Will India be able to fulfill the expectations it has generated? (40). India requires foreign investment in 25 areas, according to Modi's "Make in India" agenda. Although it is not yet a global power, India is among the top candidates to do so. India has both the potential and most likely the desire to dominate the world. India's route to become a major power is not straightforward, though. Several internal and external limiting factors have an impact on it.

India, on the other hand has "emerged as a bridge between the many extremes of the world", as former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh once remarked (41). As a world leader, India must look beyond simple measures of its economic, political, and military might and forge an understanding that is consistent with its long-held, traditional worldview. Finally, India needs to develop a new social contract with its own government, business community, and civil society. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a former prime minister, bemoaned three failures at the turn of the millennium: the failure of the government to listen to business concerns, the failure of business to understand the goals of the government, and the failure of both in their commitment to the common person. India is unable to develop and put into effect strong regulatory structures that can guarantee the design and implementation of laws that will legitimately accomplish collective goods like security, order, and welfare for its population. Policy reforms and prudent regulatory measures have also played a key role in developing resilience in the economy (42).

According to Dhruv Sharma, Senior Economist at the World Bank and the report's primary author, "India is navigating global and domestic challenges with the aid of well-crafted and prudent policy responses to global spillovers." From "The Diplomatist" By 2050, if India can maintain its economic development and social sector reforms, it would be a major global force. India is therefore turning to the future with bright visions on the eve of the 75th Independence Day.

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