



The Indian Diaspora And Foreign Policy: Economic, Cultural, And Diplomatic Dimensions Of Global Engagement

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Abstract

The diaspora, which spans numerous regions and occupations, serves as a dynamic link between India and the global population. This abstract examines the Indian diaspora's impact on foreign policy, including its diplomatic, cultural, and economic aspects. From an economic perspective, the diaspora is a vital asset, supporting India's economy through investments, remittances, and business ventures. It fosters understanding and respect for Indian customs abroad and serves as a cultural ambassador. The diaspora uses advocacy, lobbying, and networking in host countries to exert diplomatic influence and improve India's soft power. Divergent perspectives and different allegiances among the diaspora provide challenges for Indian foreign policy. This abstract's short appraisal of the complex relationship between the diaspora and foreign policy emphasizes the Indian diaspora's transformative impact on India's global engagement.

Keywords: Indian diaspora, foreign policy, soft power, economic influence, cultural diplomacy

Introduction

Making foreign policy is a very determined and dynamic Geo geopolitical challenge for any country. In India, result of internal societal contradiction and political powers decide its relationships with foreign countries. India is currently the fastest growing major economy and is part of the new Asian century where many Asian countries are emerging as rising powers which has made it necessary to focus on foreign policy makers in India. Well, focusing on the growth of the international relationship of India in southeast Asia, China cannot be ignored (Schmidt & Chakrabarti, 2021). China plays a major role in establishing and

shaping Indian policy-making in Southeast Asia and also in East Asia. In multiple aspects, while making public policy, the process of globalization has impacted the pattern of foreign policy making and made it more inclusive in terms of character. Indian diplomacy has always focused on communicating the reason of India for the foreign policy decisions, meanwhile, domestic politics needed an internal focus (Schmidt & Chakrabarti, 2021). The current government of Modi has highly energized the engagement of India with the international community to achieve various pending domestic objectives. It can be seen that India is focusing on worldly actions yet it is beginning to feel its importance beyond the geographical boundaries of India. Not only India is fastest growing economy, but its advancement in nuclear power with a military that has over a million men and is one of the largest purchases of weapons in Asia, India has all the abilities to forefront the Asian arms race and this makes it near to necessary for South Asia to maintain positive relations with the country (Schmidt & Chakrabarti, 2021).

India's growing influence in Indo Pacific region is beneficial for both India as well as Southeast Asian countries. The growing relationship between the Pacific region and South Asia is forcing countries like India to focus more on their foreign policies as they have to deal with rivals like China (Strangio, 2020). India comes out as a great trading partner to the Southeast Asian countries because not only the reason has a long rich history with Indian culture but also because the growing tension between Southeast Asian countries and China stands out India as a great alternative for these countries (Strangio, 2020).

Background

India is one of the oldest civilizations in Asia and had its cultural influence in marriage in Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar. The rich history between India and its countries makes it easier to form friendly foreign policies to deal with and engage with south east Asian countries. India's currently fastest growing economy not only in Asia but in entire world and has a bright future and potential to become trade hub of Asia and a positive alternative of China (Strangio, 2020). It is a challenging task for India to form its foreign policies in the best possible manner to ensure positive relations with south East Asian countries. The research paper covers all the essential aspects of forming foreign policies to strengthen the foreign relationship of India with south east Asian countries.

Literature review

Relationship between India and South East Asia begins with Maritime trade relations which established a foundation for a sustainable and long lasting relation between two regions. As the time passed and interaction increased between South East Asian countries and India, both the parties have started building bonds on extensive cultural exchanges and historical blend of culture between India and southeast (Kesavapany et al., 2008) historical tant flow of goods and trade ideas from India to South East Asia has its roots back thousands of years. There is an interesting fusion of Indo China culture which can be seen in

south east asian countries. The reason behind various cultures exchange 100 software was high mobility by trading through sea routes and eventual build of Indian diaspora in South eastern part of Asia (Kesavapany et al., 2008). The cultural exchange can be traced back to 2000 years ago and compassing domains of linguistic, religious as well as cultural influence. Back in history medieval Tamil inscriptions were present in Sumitra and Thailand claims on trade relations and mentions the importance of trading with India through Tamil Nadu(Kesavapany et al., 2008).

As the trade route between India and southeast Asia has been existing for thousands of year languages to have occupied an essential place in the history in which can be cooperated from the traces of Sanskrit in south east languages. Sanskrit head created essential place in south east asian languages as it was the language that became important part of political and cultural aspects of the (Shambaugh, 2022).

Buddhism has strong influence on southeast Asian countries even after Islam invasion. The silk route used to be main modes of spread of Buddhism to the southeast Asia from India(Shambaugh, 2022). Some of the branch of Buddhism followed in countries that are still existing in southeast Asia is Theravada. Cambodia has one of the most famous Buddhist temple in the world and influence of Buddhism can be seen in every part of southeast asian culture as it is still present in monasteries(Suryadinata, 2022).

Seeing India and southeast Asia in one picture is guided and influenced by multiple factors which may depend on how the contemporary Global and regional media are portraying the Indian subcontinent within the southeast Asian countries regarding religious and political rivalry or border (Strangio, 2020). Latest perception of India in South East Asian countries can also be formed by substantial Indian diaspora that country has in multiple parts of southeast Asia who might migrate the region in different periods of history under multiple different compulsions or opportunities(Strangio, 2020). The India in southeast Asia is also seen from the point of view of colonial trapping and lasting legacies of discrimination and domination from British raj over all of South Asia. Current image of India or Indians through these prisms in general and up constant the willingness or ability to comprehend the development or complexity and diversity of the idea of India is a country which has had civilized over 5000 years ago (He & Li, 2020).

Which fast Global and economics changes especially in 20th century there are increasing conversations and consciousness in southeast Asia regarding emerging India as a powerhouse in Asian century. Indian spiritualism and yoga culture and perhaps the only counter option to the growth of China in the regional dominance and dynamic nature of the country is also perceived by south east Asian countries (Scott et al., 2021). Many Indian words are still used in southeast Asian region (He & Li, 2020). The world like Karma, yoga or Guru can be easily incorporated in everyday popular speech in South East Asian countries (Scott et al., 2021). As per the geography the large southeast Asia has become a meeting ground for india and Chinese culture just like it was for over thousands of years before and provides of perfect blend of Indo Chinese culture in the Southasian States (Scott et al., 2021). Many South East Asia still view India with mixed

feeling, some citizens leg knowledge about development force in India and considered it to be a poor country while some southeast asian characterize it to be a deep-rooted cultural connection but because of lack of understanding the media dominates what the country should be perceived as (Scott et al., 2021).

Although the southeast Asian region has been experiencing inflow of foreign private capital in past few jackets after a huge integration of world economy by and large still fail to attract enough for indirect investment due to structural issues(Bose & Jalal, 2022). South east Asian countries as a whole a not considered to be developed as the lack proper quality of infrastructure and sufficient domestic savings. Besides Malaysia, Singaporean Thailand rest of the countries suffer from macroeconomic in stability. This issue stands as a barrier between flu and trading between India and South East Asia(Bose & Jalal, 2022). To accelerate the regional economic development many economy in the region Are still surviving on foreign aid and FDI in South East Asia economy. China took responsibility of providing aid to South East asian region of the continent but the relation between China and southeast asian country failed to build the strength it was expected as China started occupying the maritime region in South East Asia and Pacific Ocean(Bose & Jalal, 2022). This rift between China and southeastsasian countries provides a great opportunity for India as it appears to be perfect alternative of China(Hiebert, 2020). Constant disagreements between China and South East countries can help India to rebuilt its connection with southeast Asia as it used to be thousands of years ago(Hiebert, 2020).

In 1940s and 1950s, India started showing its interest in building alliance with southeast Asian neighbours. Unfortunately due to instability in Indian politics, this Trend couldn't last very long. Despite the proximity of geography India and South East asian States drifted apart for subsequent (Benvenuti, 2020). India has decline to renew and leverage historical links with southeast asian region and after 50s it's external policy remained oriented towards Soviet union and western countries(Benvenuti, 2020). Interaction of India with southeast Asia has been growing gradually in recent years because of the domestic re occupations. The prime focus on national development and economic self sufficiency has helped India to regain trust of southeastsasian Nations to build further alliance and increase trading through Maritime(Benvenuti, 2020). After the Indo China war in 1960, India was content with its leadership role in non aligned movement and did not expressed much inclination for wider Asian presence. All of these situations have dramatically changed when India highlighted its new economic reforms which considered with the end of cold war. In last 16 years since reforms begin India has made an impressive stripes and is now perceived as a potential power house and fastest growing economy in the continent.

Several changes in outward orientation of India started in early 90s when India was reconstructing its domestic economic policies after it announced liberalisation and globalisation. India first choice southeast Asia as a region to expand the (Piao et al., 2020)firstn though in that period it did not catch much attention but as the time passed it has grown more pronounced. In the present level of corporation between India and ASEAN countries the policy choice(Piao et al., 2020). Realisation of economy of East and South East Asia

one longer commodity producer of old and that they even surpassed India and industrialisation was a fact in 1990(Ngaibiakching & Pande, 2019). In that time manufacturing only contributed just a quarter of GDP of India in East Asia the corresponding contribution was around 50%. Domestic economic priorities of India went through radical transformation after changes in political parties within the country. The long run Congress had been reduced to show and was completely post back by leading government(Ngaibiakching & Pande, 2019). India is now open for establishing business with not least because of less tariff and comfortable inbound investment rules, but it has become technical is skilled and talented professionals of the country are leading its transformation and the IT companies of India have been one of the most important factor in building the positive image of India in south east asia and growing foreign relations between the two(Ngaibiakching & Pande, 2019).

Findings

From the research paper it has been found out that relation between India and southeast Asian countries has immense potential. Both countries have cultural ties which head back to thousands of years ago. The influence of Indian subcontinent can be easily scene in many southe asian countries weather it is their language, culture or their traditional attires. Even though religion has been completely changed in the southeast Asian region after islamization of the countries but still traces of Buddhism and Indian culture can be found in every corner of South East Asia(Shimizu, 2021). India and China both are leading economies in Asia which have deep influence on southeast asian countries. The troubling relation with China of southeast asian countries is helping India to become the perfect alternative for growth and trading. Foreign policies in India are being formed in such a manner that India comes out as the most easy, consistent and profitable business partner for south east asian countries compared to China(Ren & Liu, 2021). South east asian countries are also developing countries which have immense potential to grow further and Indian foreign policies are framed in the manner to take advantage of all the potential south East Asian region has for the development and betterment of both South Asia as well as southeast Asia (Ren & Liu, 2021).

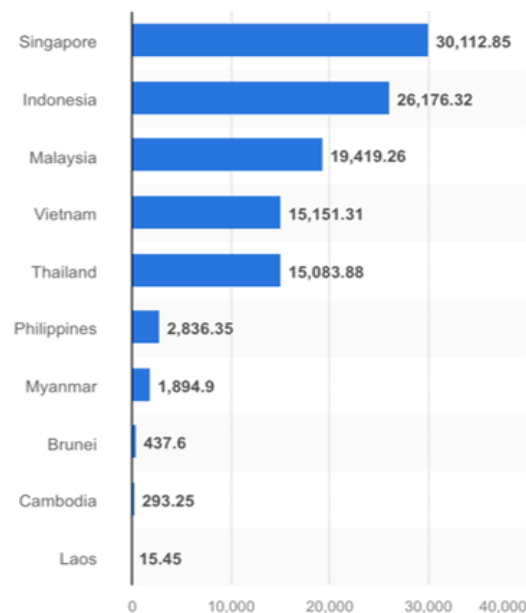


Image showing import export frequency between India and South East Asian countries on 2020.

Image showing changes in trade with ASEAN countries compared to year 2020.

(“India: Trade Value with ASEAN Countries 2021”)

Conclusion

Roots of trading relation between India and South East Asia are ancient. Both India and Southeast Asia share a painful past of Western colonization by British, French, Portuguese and Dutch. Southeast Asia has witnessed a huge flow of migrants who were mainly labourers that worked for the colonial masters. Migration of workers from one reason to another resulted in unexpected exchange of cultural practices and trading values. The oldest language of India, Sanskrit is also a profound language for many Southeast Asian languages. It is very easy to draw a significant parallel in cultures of India and South East Asia, these ancient cultural ties are being converted into business and trading which can be beneficial for both India as well as Southeast Asia. Indian government is constantly working to form its foreign policies as friendly as possible not just for Southeast Asian countries but for any other country that is willing to work with India and contribute to its growth. India and South East Asia have deep rooted historical connection which has huge impact on their trading ties. The rich past between two regions of Asian continent it was in 1990 when majority of policy reformers in India were trying to renew and strengthen their old ties. Both Southeast Asian countries and India have huge potential to grow and become a developed country in the coming future. Cultural ties and immigration and business friendly for any policies will help South East Asia and India connect better and grow together. It is said that 21st century is Asia's century and while many Southeast Asian countries are constantly becoming victims of bullying by China, India stands out to be a perfect option to maintain friendly relations regarding cultural ties, business and armed forces. As people are constantly rediscovering and working in past cultural linkage and people-to-people connections are expected to see further intensification.

as well as the collaboration between South Asia and South East Asia is expected to grow and get back to the people understanding of historical connectivity and appreciation with respect for each other. Cultural toys play a major role while developing relation with any foreign country as before forming ties between two region connecting and understanding cultural values and having mutual respect is essential. Future of economic ties between south east Asian countries and India is bright and expected to grow further.

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