

## Realigning India's Foreign Policy

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- The emerging multipolar world is becoming complicated for the binary choices and easy solutions.

\n

- It is high time that India realigns its foreign policy, and its recent moves are indicative of this.

\n

\n\n

### What is the emerging scenario?

\n\n

\n

- The world is facing power shifts, uncertainty and competition over geopolitical ideas and political models.

\n

- India is at a unique geographical position at the rimland of Eurasia and at the mouth of the Indo-Pacific.

\n

- India has slightly drifted towards the U.S. for the past decade.

\n

- However, it is now rediscovering a posture and policy for a multipolar world.

\n

- It is also taking greater responsibility for its own future and destiny.

\n

- India's foreign policy is likely to be driven by a dual attention.

\n

- It is the balance of power and order building in the continental and maritime environment around the subcontinent.

\n

\n\n

### What are the recent developments?

\n\n

\n

- India is altering its approach to the Indo-Pacific and building deeper links with continental Eurasia.

\n

- This was evident with the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

\n

- Prime Minister Modi's speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore signals an evolving foreign policy.

\n

\n\n

\n

- **World order** - Relationships with Russia and the US are based on overlapping interests in international and Asian geopolitics.

\n

- It is emphasized that India would project itself as an independent power and actor across Asia.

\n

\n\n

\n

- India would not be part of a closed group of nations or aggregate Indian power in a bloc.

\n

- It will however chart out its own course based on its own capacity and ideas.

\n

\n\n

\n

- India would stand on the side of principles, and not behind one power or the other.

\n

- This is seen to be a renewed emphasis on non-alignment.

\n

- The preferences are referred to as the "strategic autonomy".

\n

\n\n

\n

- **China** - India-China relations is a complicated one, having "many layers".

\n

- China's rise has undoubtedly increased the demand and space for India to increase its region-wide engagement.

\n

- However, stability in the relationship is important for India and the world.  
\n
- **Indo-pacific** - India's role in the vast Indo-Pacific is no longer envisaged as a China-centric one.  
\n
- India does not see the Indo-Pacific Region as a strategy or as a club of limited members.  
\n
- It is not a grouping that India seeks to dominate.  
\n
- India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region would rather be an inclusive one.  
\n
- It would entail pluralism, co-existence, open-ness and dialogue.  
\n
- India would prefer that the rules and norms should be based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

