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# India's Rise as an International Mediator: Strengthening Global Influence on the Path to Viksit Bharat 2047

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**Abstract**— The concept of India becoming a significant mediator on international affairs has been of great focus over the past few years. The more intricate the world politics is becoming, the more the wars escalate, the more there is a call to have nations, which are capable of playing the role of a neutral and reliable mediator. India is a potential mediator in the international arena in this respect, since their foreign policy focuses on dialogue, cooperation and peaceful manner on the resolving of disputes. In this research paper, the current emerging role of India as an international negotiator is explored and the role of the international negotiator with regard to its ultimate goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 commonly known as Viksit Bharat 2047 is discussed. The historical determination of India to be non-aligned, autonomous in strategy and peaceful coexistence gives the country a very solid base to mediate. India has over the years been involved in diplomatic activities that show that it has been able to strike the right balance regarding her relations with the major powers besides being able to represent the interests of the developing nations as well. The many multilateral initiatives it has joined like the G20, the United Nations and other regional blocs indicate how it is increasingly gaining prominence in the international governance. These interactions show that India is not just a country that is working towards national development but it is also playing an active role in the stability of the world and cooperation. The role of domestic development in India in issues like economic development, technological development and institutional development in enhancing its strength as a mediator is also discussed in the paper. The developing economy with a consistent growth rate helps strengthen the position of India in the world and its values of democracy and inclusiveness contributes to its moral power in foreign affairs. Besides this, the focus of India in promoting the interests of the Global South also enables it to play the role of mediating between the developed and developing states, which also strengthens its role as a mediator. Simultaneously, the paper recognizes the struggles that India undergoes in the process. The geopolitical tension, the conflict in the region and the rivalry with other leading powers can restrict its power to play a neutral mediator. Nonetheless, India has tried to conduct dialogue and cooperation consistently which is a sign of the direction that is taken by the Indian foreign policy. To summarize, the paper assumes that the emergence of India as a global mediator is tightly associated with its developmental perspective at large.

Through reinforcement of its presence in international relations and upholding a moderate and inclusive policy, India is gradually achieving its dream of being a developed and powerful country by 2047.

**Keywords**— Foreign Policy, Global Governance, Global South, Diplomacy, India, International Mediation, Strategic Autonomy, Viksit Bharat 2047

## I. INTRODUCTION

The modern international system is experiencing a major change which is characterized by a growing complexity, ambiguity as well as the gradual transformation of the unipolar to a more multipolar world order. The emergence of new actors is threatening the traditional power structures and the geopolitical tensions and conflicts in the region have only increased the need to find real and viable mediators who will be able to facilitate a discussion and promote peaceful solutions. In these circumstances, the role of states able to consider balanced relationships between the blocs competing has been gaining more significance. The concept of mediation is not confined to small neutral countries; in fact, it is becoming a strategic instrument that is used by an emerging power to improve its power and credibility in the global scene. India is a country with one of the fastest-growing major economies and an influential player in the global politics system and it is slowly becoming a major player when it comes to mediating international relations. This approach to the foreign policy based on the principles of strategic autonomy, dialogue and peaceful coexistence allows it to interact with various actors without a strong orientation to any power bloc. This unique posture enables India to be a mediator to conflicting interests especially at a period where polarization among the world super powers has intensified. The fact that India is able to keep working relations with nations that constantly clash among themselves demonstrates the practical and moderate approach of diplomacy, which is becoming more and more identified at the international scale. Another way that the role of mediation is relevant to the foreign policy of India is through its greater national goal of being a developed country by 2047, also known as Viksit Bharat 2047.



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This vision transcends the growth of the domestic economy and encompasses the desire to assume a greater and positive role in international affairs. In this connection, the international mediation interest of India is not just a product of its normative belief in the idea of peace but a strategic move to enhance its international position. India plays a role in conflict resolution and helps in building cooperation, which leads to an increase in the credibility of the state as a responsible international player, which in turn benefits its developmental and geopolitical goals in the long term. The latest trends in the international politics give valuable information about the changing mediatory role of India. Its engagement with multilateral forums, especially, its chairmanship of the G20 Summit 2023, exhibited its ability to work around intricate geopolitical rifts and create agreement between various stakeholders. When the talks between the big powers were at stake and could endanger the process of making combined decisions, the diplomatic work done by India was vital in bringing a balance of the result. Likewise, how India has been addressing current conflicts in the world including the Russia-Ukraine crisis is a sign of its focus on dialogue and diplomacy. India has tried to present itself as an impartial and positive able interlocutor by remaining in contact with all the parties and always promoting peaceful ways out. Besides its interaction with the major powers, India has also been reinforcing its presentation as the spokesperson of the Global South. India has brought about issues facing the developing nations like economic inequality, climate change, sustainable development, among others, by organizing conferences like the voice of global south summits. This strategy also manufactures the image of India as a transitional country between the developed and developing ones, which is also going to reinforce the image of a mediator. India represents the interests of a large number of countries, which means that its participation will make global discourse more inclusive and balanced, and this is critical in solving modern global problems. In the domestic level, the increasing economic power, technological development and institutional stability of India give a good ground on its developing international role. A robust and stable economy has increased the capacity of India to take part in international relations successfully, whereas its normative attractiveness is also contributed by its democratic system and adherence to pluralism. All these are what add to the credibility of India as a mediator since they are indicators of both ability and trustworthiness.

The interconnectedness of the national growth and foreign power is even more pronounced in the case of Viksit Bharat 2047, because it emphasizes the concept of the global interaction as part and parcel of the national development. But the fact that India has become an international balancer is not an unchallenged fact. The changing geopolitical environment poses various limitations such as strategic rivalry between leading powers, regional security issues and material capabilities limitations of India vis-a-vis the world established powers. Moreover, mediation expectations also demand a prudent strike on balance of interests, which any apparent bias can call into question. Irrespective of these setbacks, India has over time demonstrated a clear and conscious focus in its foreign policy through its constant focus on dialogue, inclusiveness and cooperation. This research paper will aim at exploring how India has emerged as an international mediator and also analyse the contribution of this role towards its long-term goal of becoming a developed and influential country by the year 2047. Guided by examining the major characteristics of the Indian foreign policy, the investigations of the corresponding case studies, and evaluation of the possibilities and threats that mediation entails, the paper is expected to offer a full picture of the changing role of India within the foreign politics. It claims that the mediatory role of India is not merely a trace of its diplomatic policy but also a strategic tool, which contributes to the global influence and helps India in the process of the long-term development. By doing so, the study adds to the larger debate of the role played by emerging powers in the international order. It also emphasizes the importance of the mediation as a means of foreign policy and how India is using this as a means of reinforcing its place in the increasingly interdependent and contentious world. Finally, the paper aims at proving that the process of Viksit Bharat 2047 in India is deeply connected with its capability to be a credible, balanced and effective actor in the global relations.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *A. Mediation in International Relations: Concepts and Importance*

The application of mediation is widely recognized as extremely beneficial tool of the peaceful settlement of disputes. The importance of peaceful methods of conflict resolution becomes even greater in today's world characterized by globalization and high level of conflict propensity.

Mediation could be defined as process of a dialogue carried out between two conflicted parties with the involvement of a third one. Jacob Bercovitch considers mediation “A process whereby communication and negotiation unfold at the parties at odds with each other through the intercession of a third party that attempts to help them arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement” (Bercovitch and Rubin, 1992). This definition emphasized voluntariness and non-binding nature of mediation that distinct it from other conflict management methods.

Voluntariness of the process might be considered as one of key strengths mediation. It does not involve the use of force or compulsion; it is based on talking and reaching common understanding. Scholars argue that mediation creates a favourable environment for negotiations by lowering tensions, providing each side with better understanding of the other’s position and promoting mutually acceptable compromise. Additionally, it allows the parties in conflict to retain control over the process while benefitting from the presence of a third party which is impartial and does not have any particular interests in the conflict. This is why mediation is particularly valuable in complex conflicts when direct negotiations are either inefficient or impossible due to high level of distrust or uneven power distribution.

On the other hand, mediation does not always have to be impartial or altruistic. Mediation is often used as the tool of foreign policy (Saadia Touval 2002). This line of thinking proposed that countries tend to enter mediation not just to achieve peace but to further their interests. Serving as mediators, states are able to boost their global image and stature by assuming the role of peace-makers that care about the well-being of the world society. Reframing mediation as an act of humanity rather than strategically beneficial tool, alters its perception and contributes to the countries’ position on the global stage.

Building on Touval’s argument, Duursma examines under what conditions mediation will produce the best results. According to him, there are many factors that define how efficient mediation will be; timing of mediation, desire to negotiate from conflicting sides and credibility of mediator. Mediation would be more likely to succeed if used at a time when parties realize that they cannot win the conflict or that further conflict is too costly. Another important mediator characteristic is reputation of being neutral and ability to provide certain incentives or apply mild pressure to the conflicting parties (Allard Duursma 2014). Taken together, these articles show that mediation is useful diplomatic tool that is critical for international relations.

Mediation helps manage disputes and conflicts and promotes stability and cooperation. At the same time, it benefits the mediators by allowing them to propagate their global influence and advance their position in the international system. Therefore, mediation should not be merely thought of as the method of conflict resolution; it is also a crucial element of foreign policy.

#### *B. Mediation as a Tool of Power and Influence*

A second strand of literature understands mediation as an extension of power and influence by states. The use of mediation allows states to impact conflict between other actors without involving themselves militarily or coercively. As the mediator controls the direction and topics of negotiation talks, it is also possible for them to manipulate the preferences of the conflicting parties through mediation. States may use mediation as a tool of foreign policy because it allows them to assert their influence in a way that is broadly legitimate and acceptable in international politics.

Mediation is seen as way for states to increase their power and influence through acceptable means. Emerging powers may engage in mediation to expand their influence in international politics. Mediation can allow rising powers to expand their global roles as they accumulate power because it is seen as a non-threatening method of foreign policy. Deiniol Llyod Jones provides one of the stronger arguments against mediation as a neutral diplomatic tool. He states that “mediation is embedded in wider structures of power and politics.” Mediation is influenced by foreign policy interests, identity, and overarching goals. Mediators have their own interests that often relate to the political environment they operate in. Therefore, mediation is not completely neutral as the mediator will seek a solution that aligns itself with its own foreign policy interests. If we view mediation as a method of exercising power in international politics, we can view it through a different lens. Mediation can be power through non-coercive means such as persuasion or amassing legitimacy. Mediation creates trust between the conflicting parties and the state that is mediating. Mediation allows states to build trust internationally which can create diplomatic opportunities for states to exercise power. A rising power may use mediation as a means of increasing their formal place in international society. By mediating, emerging powers can assume leadership roles in the international system. It can be argued that mediation acts as a form of “soft power” as it can increase the credibility of a state (Jones, D. L. 2015).

### *C. Emerging Powers and Global Governance*

The third strand of literature about rising powers pertains to their increased influence on global governance. Shifting from a Western-centric system to a plural and multipolar one gave voice to countries from the Global South and allowed them to join decision-making forums. Consequently, BRICS countries became more prone to reform global norms rather than simply abide by them.

Acharya states that the international order currently experiences gradual inclusion of various actors. The change became possible due to a redistribution of wealth across Asia, Africa and Latin America, which allowed emerging powers to find a seat at the table. Acharya calls this phenomenon “contributing to making the world a multiplex world,” which means building governance arrangements not dictated by a hegemon, but negotiated by a variety of actors. Sharing power and leadership with established great powers allows countries like India to position themselves as midpoints between developed states and the developing world (Amitav Acharya 2014).

Stuenkel writing resonates with Acharya’s theory in that he states rising powers typically do not attempt to overhaul the current international system. Instead, they work toward reshaping it to align with their self-interests and national identities. Stuenkel finds that to gain a larger share of voice, emerging powers utilise coalition-building, multi-literalisms, negotiations, and mediating conflicts to work within and around the system (Oliver Stuenkel 2016).

This approach appears applicable to India's foreign policy behaviour as it shows the balance between cooperation and confrontation. Mediation lets emerging powers position themselves as responsible international stakeholders while also enabling them to pursue their interests further. Thus, the practice of mediation can be categorised both as part of cooperative efforts and as power-maximisation strategy.

Building upon this, rising powers often gain credibility by portraying themselves as representatives of Global South states. Promoting development and justice, as well as reforming global governance from a position of mutual respect with the Global South, allows them to garner legitimacy. It further lets rising powers serve as potential mediators because of shared experiences with the conflicting parties.

In conclusion, the third literature stream shows that mediation practice fits within the sphere of emerging powers’ activity.

It allows them to meet at the international stage both to develop the system constructively and for their gains. India can utilise mediation both as a tool of furthering its interests and as proof of its position as an emerging power

### *D. India’s Foreign Policy and Strategic Autonomy*

India’s foreign policy has certain distinctive characteristics, which are discussed by experts and thinkers on Indian diplomacy. Examining India’s foreign policy over decades, one will notice certain elements that remained constant and certain concepts that evolved with time. The transition from Non-alignment to Strategic autonomy is one of the key takeaways from this discussion. C. Raja Mohan (2003) points out that India learned from the mistakes of the past when it unconditionally sided with one bloc during the Cold War era. It started moving away from non-alignment which usually requires choosing sides in a bipolar world. India’s foreign policy took a pragmatic turn when it realized the benefits of Strategic autonomy. Today, New Delhi seeks cooperative relations with all major actors across the globe while following an independent foreign policy that primarily serves India’s national interests. According to Mohan (2003), India leverages strategic autonomy “to interact with countries even when they are at odds with each other” (p.4). Strategic autonomy provides room for India to hedge its bets when necessary.

Elaborating on India’s balanced approach to foreign policy, Shivshankar Menon (2016) also states that India follows principles of pragmatism and balance while safeguarding long-term national interests. He further clarifies that Indians make decisions based not on what ought to be but on what is. New Delhi also does not shy away from aligning with a variety of actors as it seeks to create “maximum strategic space” for India (Menon, 2016, p.16). For example, India can often be found talking to all parties involved in a conflict because it does not take sides as a matter of principle. India’s foreign policy is also founded on key principles like peaceful co-existence, talking to others and non-interference in domestic matters. India has always strived to solve conflicts through talks rather than pushing for aggressive solutions. India taking a consistent stand for many decades has earned goodwill among members of the international community. India further augments this reputation by being a responsible stakeholder that takes part in multilateral processes and organizations. India also manages to not side with a particular power too heavily as can be seen from its relations with countries like USA and Russia.



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As major powers around the world begin to once again define their relationships in rigid terms, India has kept a balance in its ties with countries across the globe. India can use this quality of its foreign policy to act as a communicator when two parties are not talking to each other.

*E. India's Role in the Global South*

An emerging literature emphasises the rising leadership role of India in Global South especially in regard to the changing global power balance and the need to have more inclusive governance systems. As the developing countries demand to have more representatives in world decision making, India has found itself playing the major lobbyist in the interests and desires of the developing countries. This position is not contingent on its past experiences of being a post-colonial state but also on its present-day endeavours to enhance equitable and sustainable development even in the global arena. Samir Saran, (2023) is of the opinion that India has been on the frontline as a spokesperson of the developing countries by anticipating challenges like climate justice, economic inequality, access to technology and global governance institutions reforms. In its foreign policies and multilateral activities, India has continuously highlighted the necessity of a more balanced and representative world system. The approach is indicative of the larger desire to make sure the interests of the Global South are not sidelined during the processes of making international policies. The fact that India integrates normative commitments and practical endeavours strengthens its leadership in the Global South. India aims at dealing with structural inequalities that still define world politics by promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development. It focuses on such values as equity, fairness, and shared responsibility, which resonates with the developing countries where many of them have to deal with the same socio-economic issues. Consequently, India is commonly seen as a familiar and viable subject that is capable of expressing the general interests of the Global South. This office holder makes India a very legitimate international negotiator. In contrast to traditional great powers, who can be regarded with some suspicion because of their historical supremacy, the fact that India is a developing country means that the country can earn the trust of a broader group of actors. Its capacity to interact with developed and developing countries makes it a linkage between the various sections of the international community. This intermediary role comes in especially handy when it comes to global issues that need coordination among different political and economic environments.

Moreover, the Global South is valuable in helping India gain diplomatic power by establishing any form of cooperation and solidarity. In the initiatives like the development partnership, capacity-building, and South-South cooperation, India has increased its influence over regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Such initiatives not only deliver development results but also help to strengthen the image of India as a partner in the world affairs that is responsible and supportive. All in all, the literature indicates that India has become the Global South and its identity as an international relations mediator is made by its role. India can increase its moral power and leverage by promoting universal development and fair international regimes. This dualism of the emerging power and the champion of the greater world interests makes India be empowered to be regarded as a more reliable bridge-builder in more today disintegrated and uneven world order.

### III. RESEARCH GAP

The first body of literature relevant to the analysis of international mediation includes works by well-known mediation scholars such as Jacob Bercovitch and Saadia Touval who discussed mediation mostly through the lens of conflict resolution or negotiation. Their books and articles covered various dimensions of mediation including its process, its effectiveness and how mediation fit into foreign policy analysis. Meanwhile, there were scholars who approached mediation from a critical standpoint. Deiniol Lloyd Jones wrote an important book titled *Critical Approaches to Mediation*, where mediation was discussed through power and influence.

Secondly, literature that focuses on emerging powers discusses how these countries from the Global South have begun to alter the international order to become more representative and inclusive of the Global South. Amitav Acharya and Oliver Stuenkel have both written books about this subject. In these books, mediation/negotiation and coalition-building are discussed as tactics that emerging powers employ to gain more international leverage and influence.

India's evolving foreign policy has also been the subject of many books. C. Raja Mohan and Shivshankar Menon's works focused on India's posturing as a newly-emerged power and how New Delhi began to move away from the idealist principles it had used to guide itself in the first few decades after independence to a more pragmatic form of foreign policy that allowed India to gain more strategic autonomy.

Samir Saran's edited volume; *Seeking a Global Indian Sharma: India as a Leader of the Global South*, specifically focuses on India's role as a leader of the Global South and how New Delhi projects itself as the defender of a fairer international order.

What is missing from this current body of literature is a detailed study on how India can use mediation both as a tool of diplomacy to further its national interests and as a means to realize its vision of becoming a developed country by 2047. Many authors discuss either mediation as a broad concept or provide case studies on mediation without delving into how emerging powers constantly use mediation as a tool in international affairs. While India's foreign policy and leadership of the Global South has been discussed extensively, not much work has been done to discuss how these topics relate to India's potential to be a mediator. Moreover, how India's role as a mediator tie into India's larger goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 has not been discussed.

While individual studies have touched on these topics, there is not enough literature that connects India's role as a mediator and how it could help India realize its vision of becoming a developed and influential country in 25 years. India's position as a country that has consistently tried to maintain strategic autonomy in its foreign policy, a country that practices balanced diplomacy and is also seen as the largest country of the Global South should provide it with enough credibility to act as a bridge between both the Global North and Global South in a world that is beginning to grow increasingly polarized. There should therefore be a study that analyses India's growing potential to be a mediator in international affairs and how it can help India achieve its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

#### IV. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the emergence of India as an international mediator in global politics.
2. To analyse the role of India's foreign policy principles such as strategic autonomy, dialogue and balanced diplomacy in shaping its mediatory capacity.
3. To study key examples and case studies that highlight India's role in international mediation and global governance.
4. To evaluate how India's mediatory role contributes to its growing global influence and leadership position.
5. To explore the relationship between India's international mediation efforts and its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

6. To identify the challenges and constraints that affect India's effectiveness as a global mediator.

#### V. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The present study is based on the concept of soft power as conceived by Joseph Nye. Soft power is the potential of a state to attract, persuade and convince other actors to act or prefer through a combination of attraction, credibility, persuasion and legitimacy rather than coercion or military action. While hard power involves economic sanctions or military power, soft power is based on the values, institutions, culture and diplomacy of a country. Mediation, as a means of applying soft power in the contemporary international system, has gained significance. Nations that are able to organize dialogue, promote cooperation and help resolve conflicts can achieve international legitimacy and influence. Mediation allows states to influence international outcomes without losing face and in a constructive way. This theoretical framework can be applied to the increasing mediation role of India. India's strategic autonomy, peaceful co-existence, democratic governance and inclusive development add much to its international appeal. India is actively participating in multilateral institutions and championing the cause of the Global South and engaging in dialogue in international conflicts to improve its diplomatic credibility and influence. It is pertinent to point out that the Soft Power framework is more applicable to the analysis of the role played by India's mediation in supporting global peace and stability as well as strengthening India's international position. Diplomatic goodwill, international trust and influence gained through mediation can be considered a crucial aspect of India's long-term development agenda as it strives to become Viksit Bharat 2047.

#### VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This paper has taken a qualitative and analytical research platform to explore the emergence of India as an international mediator and its applicability to the overall vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Since this research problem involves studying foreign policy behaviour, the worldwide diplomatic activities, and the transforming international roles, a qualitative model is the best to represent the richness and intricacy of the topic. The study is founded more on the secondary data. These are scholarly books, peer-reviewed scientific journals, policy reports and official documents regarding international mediation, global governance and the foreign policy of India.



The study has been based on key scholarly works to give it a theoretical and conceptual background using mediation and emerging powers. Moreover, statements by the government, speeches of the policymakers and reports by international institutions have been studied to comprehend the modern-day diplomatic activities of India and its interactions with the rest of the world. The research utilizes a case study to provide a basis of the study. Certain examples of the Indian contribution in the international relations like its leadership in multilateral fora, involvement in international conflicts and its efforts to represent Global South, have been chosen as examples. These examples allow illustrating how the mediatory role of India works in reality and what part it plays in its image and impact on the international level. The case study will enable providing an in-depth situational specific analysis of the actions and strategies of the Indian in various global contexts. The study also adheres to the analytical method in the sense that the data gathered is critically analysed in order to establish the patterns, themes and connections between the foreign policy of India and its mediator role. The paper evaluates the role of principles, which include strategic autonomy, balanced diplomacy and commitment to dialogue in the participation of India in the world actors. Moreover, it examines how the international mediation program of India has been related to its long-term development vision especially the objective of emerging as a developed and powerful country by 2047. Moreover, the study has been organized in a thematic way of analysis. These findings and literature are organized into major themes, which are mediation, as a diplomatic instrument, emerging powers and global governance, the global framework of Indian foreign policy and its direction in the Global South. Such thematic organization contributes to the provision of logical and consistent interpretation of the research problem. Although the analysis in the study is detailed, it is limited in some ways. Such use of secondary sources can limit availability of real time policy discussions and secret diplomatic talks. Besides, this is because the relations of international relations are changing, so the role of Indian as a mediator is still under development and it may change over time. Although these are the weaknesses, the study provides valuable information on the strategic and diplomatic aspects of the Indian participation in the international arena. On the whole, this approach allows conducting the comprehensive study of the Indian emergence as the global mediator, integrating theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence. It offers a systematic approach to the examination of the role of the diplomatic practice of India in its increasing global power and the propensity of its vision Viksit Bharat 2047.

## VII. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

### *A. India as a Bridge Between Competing Power Blocs*

The transformation of the international system towards multipolarity has increased the demand for countries capable of maintaining constructive relations with competing power centres. India's policy of strategic autonomy enables it to engage simultaneously with the United States, Russia, the European Union and developing countries without becoming excessively dependent on any particular bloc. This balanced diplomatic posture creates opportunities for India to facilitate communication and encourage dialogue in situations where direct engagement between conflicting parties becomes difficult.

India's diplomatic conduct demonstrates an attempt to maintain channels of communication with multiple stakeholders, thereby increasing its credibility as a potential mediator. Rather than pursuing confrontation, India has consistently emphasised dialogue, negotiation and peaceful dispute resolution, which strengthens its image as a responsible international actor.

### *B. India's Leadership of the Global South*

India's growing engagement with the Global South has significantly enhanced its international legitimacy. By highlighting issues such as climate justice, sustainable development, food security and reform of global governance institutions, India has positioned itself as a representative of developing countries.

This leadership role contributes to India's mediatory potential because many developing countries perceive India as a nation that understands their developmental challenges and aspirations. Consequently, India's diplomatic initiatives often receive greater acceptance among countries seeking a more inclusive and equitable international order.

### *C. Mediation as a Source of Strategic Influence*

Mediation should not be viewed solely as a humanitarian or peacebuilding activity. It also functions as an important source of diplomatic influence. By facilitating dialogue and promoting cooperation, states can enhance their international standing and shape global conversations.

For India, mediation offers an opportunity to expand its influence through peaceful and legitimate means. Successful mediation strengthens international trust, broadens diplomatic networks, and enhances India's reputation as a constructive stakeholder in global governance. These outcomes contribute to India's long-term strategic objectives without requiring coercive forms of power.

#### VIII. CASE STUDIES

##### *A. Case Study 1: India's Leadership During the G20 New Delhi Summit 2023*

India's presidency of the G20 in 2023 demonstrated its capacity to bridge divisions among major powers. At a time when geopolitical tensions, particularly regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, threatened consensus-building within the forum, India successfully facilitated negotiations among member states. The adoption of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration reflected India's ability to balance diverse viewpoints and promote collective decision-making.

This experience strengthened India's international image as a country capable of managing complex diplomatic challenges and fostering cooperation among competing actors.

##### *B. Case Study 2: India's Position in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict*

The Russia-Ukraine conflict presented a significant diplomatic challenge for India. Rather than aligning completely with any side, India adopted a balanced approach that maintained communication with both Russia and Western countries. Simultaneously, India consistently advocated dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Although India did not act as a formal mediator, its diplomatic posture reflected several characteristics associated with mediation, including neutrality, communication and conflict de-escalation. This approach reinforced India's image as an independent and responsible international actor.

##### *C. Case Study 3: Voice of Global South Summit*

The Voice of Global South Summit represents an important initiative through which India sought to bring the concerns of developing countries into global discussions. By creating a platform for consultation and cooperation among developing nations, India attempted to bridge the gap between the Global North and Global South.

The initiative enhanced India's diplomatic standing and strengthened its claim to leadership among developing countries. It also illustrated India's ability to facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders, a critical component of effective mediation.

#### IX. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS OF INDIA'S MEDIATORY ROLE

Despite significant progress, India's emergence as an international mediator faces several constraints.

One major challenge is the increasing strategic competition among major powers. As geopolitical rivalries intensify, maintaining neutrality becomes increasingly difficult. Any perception of bias can reduce India's credibility as a mediator.

Regional security challenges also limit India's diplomatic flexibility. Ongoing tensions with China, unresolved disputes with Pakistan, and instability in South Asia often require India to prioritise national security concerns over broader mediatory ambitions.

Another limitation is the gap between India's diplomatic aspirations and its material capabilities. Although India possesses considerable economic and political influence, it still lacks some of the institutional and military resources available to established great powers. This may restrict its ability to influence conflict outcomes directly.

Furthermore, successful mediation often requires acceptance by all parties involved in a conflict. While India's international reputation has improved significantly, some countries may still question its neutrality in specific geopolitical contexts. Therefore, India's mediatory role remains a developing rather than fully established dimension of its foreign policy.

#### X. LINKAGE BETWEEN MEDIATION AND THE VISION OF VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

The aspiration of Viksit Bharat 2047 extends beyond economic development and encompasses India's emergence as a leading global power. In this context, mediation contributes directly to national development by strengthening India's international credibility, diplomatic influence, and strategic partnerships.

A reputation as a constructive mediator enhances investor confidence, facilitates international cooperation and creates opportunities for economic and technological collaboration. Effective mediation also supports a stable international environment that is conducive to trade, investment and sustainable development.

Moreover, India's growing influence in international institutions enables it to shape global norms and policies in ways that support national interests. By promoting dialogue, cooperation, and inclusive development, India can simultaneously contribute to global stability and advance its own developmental objectives.

Therefore, mediation should be understood not merely as a diplomatic activity but as an important strategic instrument supporting India's broader transformation into a developed, influential, and globally respected nation by 2047.

#### XI. CONCLUSION

The present paper analysed India's role as an international mediator. The conducted study has proven the research statement, as mediation appeared to be a notable trend in modern international relations. Representing various states' interests in negotiations processes became especially critical in the current geopolitical climate of polarization, fragmentation and ongoing transition towards multipolarity. For this reason, countries capable of balancing their relations with global actors and promoting dialogue gain increasing importance. India is successfully carving its niche in this category day by day.

Namely, the study showed that India's mediator role finds its roots in its approach to foreign policy. Being committed to the principles of strategic autonomy, India built relationships with all parties across international relations and never formally joined any political or military bloc. India's principles of balanced foreign policy, peaceful coexistence and dialogue allow the country to cultivate warm relationships with states that have conflicting interests. For instance, India has warm relationships with Iran and the United States, Israel and Palestine. It allows New Delhi to position India as a trustworthy state whose words can be taken seriously by all involved parties.

The study also found that India played an essential mediator role by participating in multilateral organizations and constructively engaging with international issues. India frequently spoke for developing countries' interests and advocated for more equitable global governance representing the Global South. India, therefore, managed to derive further legitimacy from its image as the representative of developing countries. This approach enabled India to accumulate trust from countries all around the world.

Simultaneously, there are certain constraints on India's mediator role. Strategic competitions between powerful countries sometimes put India in a challenging position, as it has hard-balancing interests with some countries and soft-balancing goals with others. Localized military conflicts between regional powers also restrain India's freedom of action in its neighbourhood. India also lacks material capacity to influence a conflict significantly, thus limiting its power projection as a mediator. India sometimes struggles to remain neutral in interest-driven confrontations, which limits its actions in mediation processes. As a result, India's mediator role should be viewed as something that is not yet fully formed and needs continuous efforts to be maintained.

Nonetheless, the study of India's mediator role overall proved that mediation is turning out to be an important instrument in India's foreign policy toolbox. India can effectively leverage its role to become more powerful without threatening or hurting any state's interests. Mediation also improves India's image as a peace-loving state that values amicable relationships with other countries. India's mediator role directly ties in with India's national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. By having a larger say in global governance, more international partnerships, and acting as a force of peace, India can help improve the state of the world. A more stable and prosperous world will allow India to realize its goals of a rapidly developing economy, a technologically advanced military and expansion of influence.

India is currently transforming from a regional power into a stakeholder of the international system. This change can be seen through India's behaviour in international politics. Not only is India getting more engaged in global issues, but it is also doing so by advocating for a balanced approach and partnerships. India's mediator role will likely continue to grow in the future as India further advocates for global partnerships and expanding its engagement with international organizations. India's mediator role will help it on the path to Viksit Bharat 2047.

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