

ASSESSMENT OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE PERIOD OF POST-COLD WAR: WITH REFERENCE TO AFRICA

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Abstract

In the post-Cold War time, with the development of an autonomous Namibia and a just South Africa, the fundamental motivation that had united India and Africa—the battle against imperialism and regulated racialism—has vanished. India's Africa approach demonstrates a slight change as likewise some consistency in post-Cold War time. It has all the earmarks of being made out of five mantras: advancing financial collaboration, drawing in the general population of Indian birthplace, averting and fighting psychological warfare, safeguarding peace and helping the African barrier powers. There exists huge goodwill for India in Africa and India should exploit it to additionally reinforce ties through another organization.

1. INTRODUCTION

India and Africa have a relationship that can be followed back to antiquated circumstances. Contacts and exchange between the general population of the eastern seaboard of Africa and the western seaboard of India have been continuing for a considerable length of time. Nonetheless, the relationship has swung from a time of incredible passionate and political solidarity in the 1960s to specific engagement in the 1980s [1]. In the post-Cold War period in Africa there is a developing observation that it was underestimated, both

politically and monetarily. Politically, Africans felt assuaged that Super Power control in the landmass had finished. Then again there is an inclination that they are of minimal key significance to the real powers. Monetarily Africa is of little significance to the real players on the planet economy—the Western economies, the multinational companies and the managing an account establishments [2].

This recognition was painted predominantly by Afro worry warts, who felt "if Africa is pushed off the world's surface, none or just few would miss it." It

was pushed by hard realities that around 300 million Africans live on US \$ 0.65 or less every day, more than 250 of each 1,000 kids bite the dust before the age of five and in more than 20 nations one out of ten grown-ups has HIV/AIDS.

By the by, on the positive side, the landmass has seen a pattern towards democratization that is obvious in multi-party decisions over the mainland and the rise of a majority rule South Africa. It is additionally unmistakable in the dispatch of the New Partnership for Africa's

Development (NEPAD) through the joint endeavors of South Africa and Senegal. This activity design guarantees to expel the tag of the 'Miserable Continent' [3].

Against this background the paper looks at India's Africa strategy in the post-Cold War period. The foundation of India's Africa approach in the past has been the help for the battles against imperialism and racialism in Africa. The development of a law based South Africa has conveyed a conclusion to the politically-sanctioned racial segregation battle in Africa [4].

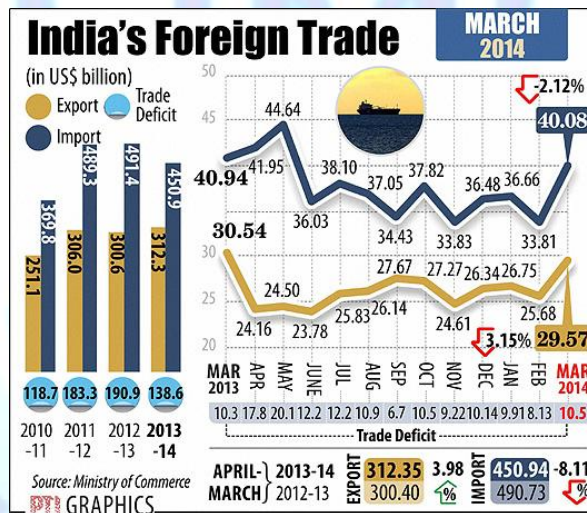


Fig. 1: India's trade with Africa

2. INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

In the post-Cold War era, granted that Indians and Africans were allies in the struggle against colonialism and

apartheid, both now need to march together to the tune of geo-economics. Based on historic friendship, we can still be partners in the struggle against under-development, poverty and other common

problems.

India's Africa policy during post-Cold War era, it appears, is composed of five mantras [5]:

- Promoting economic cooperation
- Engaging the PIOs
- Preventing and combating terrorism
- Preserving peace
- Assisting the African defense forces

The Government Initiatives are:

1. *US \$6 million EXIM line of Credit to PTA countries*
2. *Engaging West African Countries*
3. *Revolving Fund for Africa*
4. *MOU with SADC*
5. *Meeting of HOMs/Commercial Representatives*
6. *Focus Africa*

Overall, the exchange amongst the India and Sub-Saharan Africa has developed from US\$ 893 million of every 1991-92 to US\$ 3,390 million out of 2000-2001, enlisting as increment of more than 280 for each penny in 9 years. Its imports from the locale have expanded from US\$ 458 million of every 1991-92 to US\$ 1,581 million out of 2000-2001.²⁸ Nigeria, Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana

have been the significant exchanging accomplices amid this period. India has consented to reciprocal exchange arrangements with 19 nations in Africa [6].

Mahatma Gandhi had stated, "The trade amongst India and Africa will be of thoughts and administrations, not of produced products against crude materials after the design of western exploiters." But the laws of the commercial center have all the earmarks of being unyielding! A large portion of our imports from Africa comprise of minerals, oil based commodities and crude materials, while our fares are materials, pharmaceuticals, building products, and so forth[7].

The organization of Africa's exchange has caused some tension among a few Africans as well. Adebayo Adedji, previous Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) states that, "The conventional situation that acquired in our exchange with the created world, whereby our nation supplies the previous with wares and imports there from made items including capital products, is being imitated, intentionally or not, in our intra-third world exchange ... I feel... such a circumstance is totally unsatisfactory to us." This is a reality that the Africans need

to confront the synthesis of exchange what would be changed just with more prominent level of financial improvement in these nations [8].

3. FUTURE OF EXPORTS

Despite the number of initiatives launched by the Indian government, Indian exports are still a miniscule part of total African imports (see Fig. 2). The Indian Commerce Minister feels that the Indian exports to Africa are sub-optimal case. The problems of the trading with Africa are well-known—large payments to Indian exporters being stuck due to foreign exchange crunch; language problem; lack of awareness about the African potential, ongoing conflicts; and lack of direct shipping lines to Africa. In today's market-driven economics, the government's role is limited; it can act as facilitator alone. The competition in trading with Africa is indeed hitting up. Thirty-five countries in Africa are eligible for AGOA, but only have qualified for exporting to the US through AGOA. Countries like China and Malaysia have got excited with AGOA and plan to increase investments in Africa. Malaysia has already invested in a textile unit in the South Africa in 2002 [9].

Pharma Success

In April 2001, the South African government won the argument against multinationals to import non specific AIDS drugs. This historic point judgment has paved the way for pharmaceutical fares from India of nonexclusive AIDS medications to Africa. Around 20 million individuals living in Africa are contaminated with the AIDS virus. These hostile to retroviral medications, or ARVs, could be provided by the Indian organizations at a small amount of the cost of Western medications. Nigeria was the principal nation to import these from Cipla and Ranbaxy. India has seven pharmaceutical organizations producing ARVs. A four-day Africa-India Health Summit sorted out by the Government of India united 16 African countries. Leading pharmacy organizations displayed their abilities and items. Toward the finish of the Summit the ground was laid for joint ventures in African nations. South Africa and Kenya have consented to arrangements for joint endeavors with Indian firms [10].

Cashing the Information Boom

India has made a name in the Information Technology and there is good scope for the IT exports to Africa. Only around half a million Africans are having the access to Internet, and therefore there is a pressing need to narrow the 'digital divide'. The

Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) has launched an initiative to accelerate the adoption of the information systems in Africa. There is tremendous scope for joint ventures with India in this area.

4. ENGAGING THE PIOs

The administration of India has attempted to draw in individuals of Indian starting point (PIO) in the post-Cold War period. While the Congress government's approach was poor, the BJP government has turned the arrangement around. The PIOs are currently the concentration of the administrations outside arrangement activities in various areas of the world. It composed the principal ever meet of parliamentarians of Indian cause at New Delhi in December 1998. It additionally offered a PIO Card. In any case, at US\$ 1,000 there were not very many takers. The Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) are required a diminishment to US\$ 250.

In September 2000, the administration set up an abnormal state council on the Indian Diaspora as a noteworthy initiative. The order of the board of trustees was to make an exhaustive investigation of the worldwide Indian Diaspora and to suggest measures for a useful relationship. The report was submitted on January 8, 2002. Some of

the prominent recommendations is:

- Offer of Dual citizenship to PIO/NRIs living in select countries (United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Western Europe, Singapore) under the rubric of the Citizenship Act
- Fee reduction in PIO Card scheme
- Celebration of 'PravasiBhartiya Divas' on January 9 (the day Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa) every year
- Setting up of a 'single window' organisation, a PravasiBhartiyaBhawan, to deal with the PIO/NRI issues.

The administration has acknowledged the greater part of these suggestions. With regards to the recommendations, the legislature sorted out three-day long festivals honoring the PravasiBhartiya Divas in January 2003. Various gatherings were held including the experts, educated people, businesspeople and parliamentarians of Indian origin [11].

5. PROMOTING PEACE

Peace is a slippery product in Africa which has seen scores of contentions throughout the years. It is evaluated that 18 Sub-Saharan African nations are

specifically or by implication engaged with clashes; in 12 others, strife can erupt at any moment. In some of these contentions, the Blue Helmets were conveyed. India has partaken in some of these peacekeeping operations. It was associated with the United Nations operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ); Somalia (UNOSOM I, II); United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM I, II, III); Observer Mission (MONUA); and furthermore in the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNAMEE).

India's part in UN peacekeeping in Africa has been highly valued by the neighborhood populace. In a gathering in

Assisting the African Defense Forces

India has been giving military preparing to officers and JCOs of the African barrier powers. A large portion of the African nations need the military establishments and, consequently, the officers are frequently sent to another country either to the military universities of the previous pilgrim forces or well disposed nations in the creating scene. Since the 1960s India has given military preparing to various Africans, principally from Anglophone Africa. Preparing is bestowed in national organizations under the three wings of the safeguard administrations, including the National

New Delhi, the Namibian Foreign Minister rushed to express valuation for India reaction to the African hour of need. Nevertheless, it has likewise got its offer of brickbats. In Sierra Leone, Major-General V.K. Jetley got in discussion, with the Nigerian and different administrations of the West African coalition which requested his removal. General Jetley had blamed senior African military authorities for the UN peacekeeping power of conniving with the radicals to mine precious stones unlawfully. The West African countries saw the nearness of Indian UN peacekeeping powers in Sierra Leone as 'interference' [12].

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6. CONCLUSION

India's Africa approach shows both change and congruity in the post-Cold War time. The general population of Africa has recognized India's help in the past and there is a great deal of goodwill towards India. They are pulled in towards the new picture of India in the 21st century as the new community for innovation and trade in Asia.

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