India's Development as a Major World Power

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ABSTRACT

India's ascent as a major world power is a multifaceted journey marked by economic growth; geopolitical significance; and evolving diplomatic strategies. This abstract explores key dimensions of India's development on the global stage. Economically; India's transition from a predominantly agrarian economy to a tech-driven powerhouse has been remarkable. With a burgeoning middle class and advancements in technology; India has become an attractive destination for foreign investment and a hub for innovation. Geopolitically; India's strategic location in South Asia has positioned it as a key player in regional stability and global security. Diplomatically; India has engaged in dynamic partnerships; contributing to forums like BRICS and G20; and fostering ties with major powers. Challenges persist; including socioeconomic disparities and regional tensions; but India's trajectory as a major world power reflects a nation navigating the complexities of modernization while actively shaping the global narrative.

Keywords: Economic Growth and Liberalization; Globalization and Trade; Technological Advancements and Innovation; Diplomatic Outreach and Strategic Alliances.

1. Introduction

India's journey towards becoming a major world power has been a remarkable narrative of economic growth, geopolitical influence, and socio-cultural dynamism. From its post-independence era marked by economic challenges and a quest for self-sufficiency, India has emerged as a key player on the global stage. The economic reforms initiated in the early 1990s ushered in an era of liberalization, privatization, and globalization, propelling India into a new phase of development. With a burgeoning population and a vibrant democracy, India's economic prowess and technological advancements have garnered international attention.

Geopolitically, India's strategic significance has grown, and its diplomatic engagements have expanded across continents. As a nation rich in diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, India's soft power has also played a pivotal role in shaping its global image. This introduction sets the stage to explore the multifaceted aspects that contribute to India's ascent as a major world power, encompassing economic achievements, geopolitical influence, and the cultural richness that defines its global identity.

2. Evolution of India as a global player

India's evolution as a global player up to 2023 is marked by a transformative journey across political, economic, and technological fronts. In the early 21st century, India experienced robust economic growth, leveraging its demographic dividend and embracing globalization. The information technology and business process outsourcing industries played a pivotal role in positioning India as a key player in the global economy.

On the political front, India strengthened its diplomatic ties and engaged in multilateral forums. Its non-aligned foreign policy evolved to include strategic partnerships with major powers while maintaining a focus on regional stability. India's growing influence was evident in its bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, signalling its aspirations for a more assertive role in global governance.
Economically, India continued to implement reforms aimed at liberalizing markets and attracting foreign investment. Initiatives such as "Make in India" and "Digital India" underscored a commitment to innovation and industrial development. Despite facing challenges, including issues related to infrastructure and bureaucracy, India's economic trajectory showcased resilience and adaptability.

In the realm of technology, India made significant strides. The country's vibrant startup ecosystem flourished, with innovations in sectors like fintech, healthcare, and renewable energy. India's space program achieved milestones, exemplified by successful missions such as Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan, elevating the nation's status in space exploration.

India's evolving role in addressing global challenges became increasingly pronounced. The nation actively participated in climate change initiatives and committed to sustainable development goals. Its diplomatic efforts focused on fostering regional stability, exemplified by engagements with neighbouring countries and active involvement in peacekeeping missions.

As of 2023, India stands as a multifaceted global player, contributing to economic growth, technological innovation, and diplomatic initiatives. Its evolution reflects a balance between embracing its rich cultural heritage and adapting to the demands of a rapidly changing world, positioning India as a dynamic force on the international stage.

3. Evolution of India as a global player from 2000 to 2023

From 2000 to 2023, India has undergone a remarkable evolution as a global player across various sectors, marking its transition from a regional power to a prominent player on the world stage.

3.1. Economic Growth and Liberalization (2010-2020)

Between 2010 and 2020, India underwent significant economic growth and liberalization, marking its trajectory as a major world power. The decade saw the country navigate a complex landscape of domestic reforms, global economic challenges, and geopolitical shifts.

India's economic growth during this period was notable, although it faced challenges such as inflation, fiscal deficits, and a complex tax structure. The government, recognizing the need for structural reforms, introduced initiatives like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 to streamline the tax system. Additionally, there was a push for financial inclusion and digitalization, exemplified by the demonetization move in 2016, aimed at curbing black money and promoting a cashless economy.

Liberalization continued to be a key theme, with the government easing restrictions on foreign direct investment (FDI) across various sectors. Reforms in sectors like defense, insurance, and retail opened up new avenues for foreign investors, fostering international collaborations and technology transfers. The 'Make in India' initiative was launched to boost manufacturing and make the country a global hub for production.

India's role in the global economy expanded, with the country becoming a member of prominent international forums and engaging in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The government actively sought to enhance
trade relationships with various nations, emphasizing economic diplomacy. Furthermore, India's information technology sector continued to thrive, contributing significantly to its global standing.

Despite these positive developments, challenges persisted. Income inequality, job creation, and environmental concerns remained focal points for policymakers. The demographic dividend, with a large and youthful population, offered both opportunities and challenges in terms of employment generation and skill development.

On the geopolitical front, India strengthened its strategic partnerships, engaging in initiatives like the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) and enhancing ties with both traditional allies and new partners. The nation played a crucial role in global governance discussions, advocating for reforms in institutions like the United Nations Security Council to better represent emerging economies.

In conclusion, the period from 2010 to 2020 marked a significant phase in India's journey toward becoming a major world power. Economic growth, liberalization, and active participation in global affairs propelled India onto the international stage. While the country made substantial progress, the subsequent years would see India navigating through evolving challenges and opportunities on its continued path of development and global influence.

3.2. Globalization and Trade (2010-2020)

Trade has been significant, marking its emergence as a major world power. During this period, India experienced substantial economic growth, fueled by globalization, trade liberalization, and a burgeoning technology sector. As a key participant in the global economy, India became increasingly integrated into the international supply chains, fostering trade relationships with various nations.

One of the notable aspects of India's development during this period was the rise of its service sector, particularly information technology (IT) and business process outsourcing (BPO). Indian IT companies played a pivotal role in providing services to global clients, contributing significantly to the country's export revenue. This shift towards a knowledge-based economy showcased India's adaptability and competitiveness on the global stage.

Furthermore, trade agreements and diplomatic efforts bolstered India's position in the international trade arena. The country actively engaged in negotiations and collaborations, aiming to diversify its export markets and enhance economic ties with major players. The signing of trade agreements and participation in multilateral forums strengthened India's influence and showcased its commitment to open and inclusive global trade.

However, challenges such as trade imbalances, protectionist measures in some economies, and geopolitical tensions impacted India's global trade dynamics. The country worked towards addressing these challenges by exploring alternative markets, promoting domestic manufacturing through initiatives like "Make in India," and advocating for reforms in international trade practices.

India's development as a major world power in the context of globalization and trade during this period was also influenced by its domestic policies. Structural reforms, infrastructure development, and initiatives to improve the ease of doing business aimed at creating a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investors.

In conclusion, the period from 2010 to 2020 witnessed India's evolution as a major world power, driven by its active participation in globalization and trade. The country's economic growth, technological advancements, and
diplomatic engagements have positioned it as a key player in the global arena, contributing to the ongoing narrative of India's ascent on the world stage.

3.3. Diplomatic Outreach and Strategic Alliances (2010-2020)

India expanded its diplomatic footprint, forging strategic alliances with major global powers. Enhanced relations with the United States, Russia, and key European nations signaled India's growing geopolitical influence. It also played a pivotal role in BRICS, further solidifying its standing in international forums.

3.4. Technological Advancements and Innovation

India witnessed a surge in technological innovation, with a booming startup ecosystem and advancements in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and space exploration. Notably, the successful Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2014 demonstrated India's capabilities in space technology on a global scale.

3.5. Global Leadership and Multilateral Engagement

In recent years, India has assumed a more proactive role in addressing global challenges. Its leadership in climate change initiatives, commitment to sustainable development goals, and contributions to peacekeeping missions underscored its dedication to global problem-solving. India's aspiration for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council reflects its ambition for greater influence in global governance.

Throughout this period, India's evolution as a global player has been characterized by economic resilience, diplomatic finesse, technological prowess, and a commitment to addressing global challenges. The nation has transitioned from being a regional force to a multifaceted player with a significant impact on the international stage.

4. Conclusion

India's journey toward becoming a major world power is marked by significant strides in economic, technological, and diplomatic spheres. The nation's commitment to democracy, its demographic advantage, and a burgeoning economy have positioned it as a key player on the global stage. Rapid industrialization, advancements in technology, and a growing middle class have fueled India's economic growth, contributing to its rise as a major player in the international arena. However, India also faces challenges such as socio-economic disparities, infrastructural gaps, and regional conflicts that require strategic and inclusive development policies. The country's diplomatic efforts, exemplified by its active participation in international forums and collaborations, underline its commitment to fostering global partnerships. India's ascent as a major world power is not solely defined by its economic growth but also by its contributions to global problem-solving, peacekeeping, and sustainable development. As the nation continues to navigate these complexities, its commitment to multilateralism, inclusive growth, and technological innovation will play pivotal roles in shaping its future trajectory on the world stage. The world is witnessing India's transformation into a global power with the potential to influence geopolitics, economics, and global governance in the years to come.

Declarations

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Consent for Publication
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