

India and Global South

IBSA (India - Brazil - South Africa)

Objective of IBSA

- South-South cooperation
- Development partnership

IBSA represents global South.

Origin of IBSA

- First IBSA Summit (at level of foreign ministers) started at Brazil in 2003.

Significance of 2003

- In 2001, Doha Development Agenda (DDA) was adopted, but there was no progress on Doha agenda.
- Frustration with DDA led these 3 countries to initiate a new model of South-South cooperation.

India's objective

- It is an attempt to regain India's lost leadership status among third world countries.
- It is the creation of NDA govt, which was looking for an alternative to NAM platform.
- NAM has lost relevance & didn't show

the possibility of any concrete cooperation.

- India at that time was enhancing its engagement with the West & was looking for a platform which is not distinctly anti-West.

- IBSA also got support from USA & EU.

Areas of Cooperation

- There are 3 pillars of IBSA.

- Geopolitical

Reforming the institutions of global governance.

- Sectoral cooperation

There are 14 working groups. This cooperation is in partnership with civil society and Corporate sector.

- IBSA Fund

Each country contribute \$1 million annually to IBSA Fund.

Significance of IBSA Fund

- Under this fund, small scale projects have been undertaken.

e.g. • Waste Collection Project in Haiti

- Sports complex at Ramallah

- Pub. Health Centre at Cape Verde

- Capacity building of govt to tackle HIV in Burundi

- Irrigation project in Vietnam.

These projects are implemented through UNDP.

IBSA fund was awarded Millennium Goal Development Award for 2010.

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What is special about IBSA model?

- It goes for bottom-up approach.
- Countries can decide demand driven programmes
- no conditionalities are attached, only expertise & consultation is offered.
- Use of traditional knowledge & community participation.

Comparison betⁿ IBSA & NAM

Similarities

- Both are Indian initiatives
- Both initiatives show some similarity in purpose
- NAM's purpose was also restructuring of world order, making it more equitable.
- NAM also stood for South-South cooperation.
- Like IBSA

Difference betⁿ IBSA & NAM

- Diff. in context of origin
 - NAM because of bipolar world
 - IBSA because of failure of Doha Dev. Agend or lack of progress in DDA.
- In terms of composition
 - NAM has been more universal & developing countries of all shades have been the members of NAM.
 - IBSA has only 3 countries representing the 3 continents of South, each country is a leading nation, each country has a pluralistic society & each country is a democracy.

- In term of achievement

- Except ending colonialism & racialism NAM does not have tangible achievements but
- IBSA has tangible achievements for which it has also been awarded MDG award.

- NAM is an ideological platform

- IBSA is pragmatic

- NAM has been a source of criticism specially from Western block whereas

- IBSA has been appreciated by US & EU

IBSA OR NAM

- IBSA appears to be more pragmatic & practical approach than NAM, but it is wrong to consider that NAM has lost its relevance.

- NAM is a biggest platform of developing countries outside UNGA. There are many collective interests of third world countries from climate change to trade talks.

- NAM is more inclusive in its composition.

However NAM in its present form will always face the crisis of relevance. Until & unless countries of third world learn to keep aside the disputable issues in their bilateral relations & work together for collective interest, NAM would continue to face identity crisis.

- IBSA does not supplement NAM, rather complements NAM.

need for Grassroot democracy in 3rd world.

IBSA and India

- IBSA is of special significance to India. It establishes India's position as a leading nation. India can show concrete actions at IBSA because countries like Pakistan are out of the platform.
 - India appears to be a weaker partner in BRICS in comparison to China & Russia.
 - India should oppose Chinese attempts to convert IBSA into CHIBSA or to dilute IBSA as the 3 countries of IBSA are the members of BRICS.
- BRICS & IBSA share geopolitical aims, both aim at development of South. However it is in India's interest to put energy in IBSA, maintain its distinctiveness from BRICS as the other 2 countries have good relations with China.
- India always had China factor in mind wrt IBSA, that is why one of the condition of membership has been pluralistic societies with democratic political system.

India & Africa

- Continuity & change in India's Africa policy.
- Key determinants of India's Africa policy at present
- India's partnership with African Union.
- What should be our approach towards Africa.
- India-China rivalry in Africa.

Continuity & change in

Phases of India-Africa Relations.

- There has been civilisational links betn India and Africa since ancient times. However in modern times we can trace the interactions to the period of colonialism. India and Africa had common concerns in wars against imperialism & racialism. Nehru always considered that goal of Indian independence remains incomplete without liberation of Africa. Africa & India ~~share~~^{they} not only with history but also have common destiny.

Significance of Africa for India.

- Geopolitical significance
The support of African countries is critical for India's geopolitical aims like reforms of UNSC, India's view on food security, trade liberalisation, & etc. climate change negotiations.
It gives opportunity to build India's soft power.

It permits India to show that India is a major power whose influence is not limited to its region.

- Geoeconomic significance

- Africa has huge natural resources. Africa has become significant for India's energy security.
- It is market for India's pharmaceuticals, IT industry, automobile industry, etc.
- It is also supplier of precious metals like gold, diamond, etc.
- Africa has become important in recent times for many countries as many African countries are also registering good rate of economic growth.
- Africa is also having a young population and a fast emerging middle class population.

- Geo strategic significance

- Africa is India's extended neighbourhood.
- Peace & stability in Africa is of strategic significance for India. Some of the security challenges emerging in Africa are Civil Wars, failed states, rise of terrorism, religious fundamentalism, piracy.
- India has always taken strategic factor into consideration. India always had a huge involvement towards peace & stability in Africa in the form of UN peacekeeping operations.
- India also has defence partnership with Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, Tanzania as well as South Africa.
- India also conducts IBSA MAR (IBSA maritime) exercises.

to deal with nontraditional security threats like piracy, organised crimes, etc.

Stages in India's Africa policy

- India's Africa policy is rooted in Gandhian approach towards Africa. According to Gandhi, there will be commerce of ideas & services and not of raw materials and goods like imperialist powers.

Above thoughts still form the foundation.

India's approach towards Africa is guided by the principle of partnership, the sharing of African dream. According to the vice President of India, "India-Africa cooperation is genuine two-way street."

Relations upto 60s

- Nehru talked about Afro-Asian solidarity. The initial approach of India was ideational and programmatic.

- From

From 70s till 90s

- There was neglect of Africa as India's attention was focused on South Asia, Indian economy was inward looking.

' From 90s onwards

- Reengagement with Africa started. However govt has not taken the lead, it was the private sector which has provided initial momentum.

in the relationship. CII has been instrumental in organising annual India-Africa Business Conclave. Gradually govt. of India also started giving focus on Africa.

Present status of relations.

Since 2008, India-Africa relations have been institutionalised. African Union becomes the nodal point for India's engagement at Pan-African level. So far 2 Summits have been organised. 1st in 2008 resulted into Delhi Declaration and An India-Africa Framework for cooperation. 2nd Summit was in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2011 resulting into Addis Ababa Declaration and Africa-India enhanced framework for cooperation.

In above context, India followed Chinese model

In 2006, China started FOCAC (Forum for Africa & China Cooperation)

Strategies adopted by Govt. of India.

- Pan-Africa level engagement
- Partnership with regional organisations/communities.
SADC, Ecomas
- Bilateral engagement
- Involvement of business community
- Involvement of Indian diaspora.

Prominent Govt. led initiatives

- Africa has been the biggest beneficiary of ITEC (Indian Technical & Economic cooperation)

- Team-9 initiative

Team-9 Technical, economic approach for Africa movement

- This is India's partnership with 8 West African countries and helping in its capacity building, etc.
- Pan-African eNetwork.
prime focus on telemedicine
- Govt of India has also launched development partnership administration, a specialised agency in Ministry of External Affairs for better coordination of its developmental programmes.
- OVL is involved in oil exploration in Nigeria, Ghana.
- Indian pvt sector has also made its presence in agriculture, IT, petroleum refining, pharmaceuticals, etc.

Policy guidelines in dealing with Africa

what approach
we should follow.

View of Mahesh Sachdev (Former High Commissioner to Nigeria)

- He has suggested SWOT analysis
- India being a developing country with low income comparable to most of African nations can't sustain freebies like that of China. Hence we have to make African countries stakeholders in Indian initiatives.
- India should not give free hand to African Union & should not abdicate our responsibilities completely. We should have more active involvement in choosing the projects, manner & planning.
- India has to revamp its credit projects as there have been mismanagement of funds
- India should harness our assets like Indian diaspora,

- growing acceptability & demands for Indian services in healthcare & education.

Views of Siddharth Varadarajan

- - India has to enhance its diplomatic presence.
- - India should establish special purpose vehicles to pursue strategic engagements.
- - Should enforce corporate sector responsibility on Indian companies in Africa.
- - Should contribute in the domain of knowledge & culture.
- - So far our engagement with diaspora has been limited to the elite section, we have to reach at all levels of Indian diaspora.
- - In general it can be suggested that govt should involve all the stakeholders, i.e., govt sector, pvt companies as well as Indian diaspora to formulate Africa policy.
- - There has been no official pronouncement of Africa policy at par with Indian initiatives like look-East, connect-Central Asia or look West policy.
- - It is to be noted that China has already pronounced its Africa policy.

India China Rivalry in Africa

- - India China rivalry has been a favourite pastime of Western scholars. It is to be noted that officially both India & China have denied the existence of any such rivalry.

& emphasised that there is enough space for both countries to work in Africa.

India China rivalry can be seen as an attempt by the Western scholars to ensure that the 2 Asian giants do not come together. It also diverts attention from the fact that India and China are not the only players. Recently USA has also inaugurated its 1st US-Africa summit & increasing its economic & military presence. Other countries involved in Africa are Russia, Brazil, EU.

It is wrong to consider that there is a rivalry betn India & China. But we can't deny that there is a competition betn India & China.

Competition is a healthy thing. India has actually benefited out of Chinese presence in Africa. It has provided momentum to India's initiatives. China has been the determinant of India's Africa policy. Had China been not there in Africa, we would have neglected Africa for few more years. China

China & India have their own advantages & comparative strengths. China has advantage in infrastructure whereas India has advantage in IT & other services. China has deep pocket to offer whereas India can contribute in the capacity building. India has certain advantages over China - a bigger diaspora, historical linkages, ability to link with Africans. Africa

Africa need both China & India. India does not need to imitate China. India doesn't

need to be insecure; nor India needs to go complacent.

Change in India's Africa policy.

- From ideational it has become more
- materialistic.
- From rhetorical it has become more practical.

India and Latin America

Latin America has been the last frontier of India's foreign policy. Geography has always been an obstacle in India's engagement, but according to analysts, more than geographical barrier, it is psychological barrier that has impacted India's engagement

Relations till the end of Cold War.

- India had limited engagement with the region for following reasons
 - India's inward looking economy
 - Lack of political stability in L. America.
 - Many countries were under US influence.

Relations after Cold War

- With new economic policy, there has been enhancement in economic engagement. Bilateral trade which was \$500 million in 1990 has jumped to \$40 billion in 2012-13. But this amount is insignificant if we compare it with China. Bilateral trade for China for same period has been more than \$240 billion. India's share in the total external trade of Latin America is less than 1% & Chinese share is 8%.

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Present scenario in India-Latin America relations.

Much more favourable climate is developing for India. Latin American countries have shown interest in India & is considering India as a next big thing for Latin America.

- Today Latin America is more politically stable & integrated
- Latin America & India have complementarity in economies
- L.A. has a huge landmass & limited population thus can address food security.
- It can also address India's energy security.
- * India has started importing 10% of its crude oil from Latin America.
- In context of Western Protectionism at trade talks & US attempts to create TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) & Trans Atlantic Investment Partnership, India's dependency on global South increases.
- Present Govt. of India is also emphasising on economic dimension of diplomacy.
- India's pvt. sector is vibrant.
- CELAC, a recently formed grouping of 34 countries of Latin America & Caribbean had its first outreach summit at New Delhi
- India & CELAC had started institutionalised interaction.

Outcome of Dec 2012 CELAC meeting in New Delhi

- It resulted into the declaration of broad

parameters of India's relations with Latin America.

- The 2 partners have created an elaborate roadmap in following sectors
 - Business, Agriculture, Science & tech, education & culture
- Institutionalised annual meetings at the level of foreign ministers. (CELA's counterpart with India's For Mkt)

Suggestions

- Distance is the biggest barrier, so connectivity should be the priority
- Shipping companies can be given incentives to reduce transport costs
- Early conclusion of PTAs & FTAs | Preferential because trade is going to be the most imp area of cooperation.
- Speed up Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement & steps that promote investments.
- Visa liberalisation
- Govt of India should promote Latin American studies & to explore potential sectors of cooperation
- Increase our diplomatic footprints. Indian diplomatic missions are present just in 19 countries & absent from significant countries like Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador
- Like China, India should also join Inter-American Development Bank.
- India should engage closely with ECLAC (Economic Commission for L. American Countries) | Think tank
- India has to cooperate in knowledge based activities.

MEP
public
diplomacy.

Essays
by

Deepak Bhojwani

Infocus. MEA website.

poverty alleviation and social security.

- Sustain momentum of IBSA, BRICS and wider consultations at WTO.