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INDIA IN THE EMERGING GLOBAL ORDER

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ABSTRACT

This century belongs to India which will become a unique intellectual powerhouse.....capturing all its glory, which it had in the millennia gone by. These words show that a new vigour and confidence prevailing in the country, on its march to have a stake in the emerging New Global Order. In the upcoming Global Order, what the world has been witnessing is a revolution of rising expectations. People the world over, wants results. They want a right expectation and infrastructure for growth and better living through Good Governance and Development Administration. Hence there should be a firm and time bound global commitment for boosting this emergence.

Keywords: Global Order, Good Governance, Development Administration.

INTRODUCTION

The pre-occupations of the 20th century were colonialism, the cold war, disarmament and apartheid. These issues shaped national interests and international relations. The *East-West* divide of the cold war was aggravated by an ever-widening *North-South* gap, created political and economic tensions. The cold war has now being buried, colonialism eradicated, apartheid banished and supremacy of democracy established in much of the world.

India played an important role in these processes, through its invitations and by activism in international organizations like *Non-Aligned Movement* and *Commonwealth*. India vested enormous political and economic capital into these campaigns, sometimes paying a heavy price in the short run for taking these principled stands. In the long run we acquired political prestige and moral authority in the comity of nations. Drawing the lessons from Cold War and NAM, India believed that a stable global political equilibrium could only be achieved through a multi-polar and co-operative world order.

In the 21st century, the world cannot be built on old *colonial calculations*. Every issue has to be viewed afresh with an open mind. Every preposition will have to be tested on the touchstone of new logic. This is as relevant to India as to the big powers. India's role is to see the world and its problems in a new prospective. In the endeavour for a *New Global Order*, India has crucial role to act, mainly because the country is an example of dynamism and energy. It is having 33% of its population under the age of 15. This is a sign of tremendous asset and the immense responsibility it represent. A young population is a guarantee of imagination, renewal, awakening and hope, despite being a challenge of education, health and training.

India is actively developing its relations with other countries and regions on the lines of *multi-polar world order*. The strategic partnership with Russia reflects India's convergence on bilateral, regional and international issues. There is a new warmth and candour in our relations with U.S.A after the signing of Indo-U.S nuclear deal. India maintains excellent bilateral, political and economic interaction with European Union and has institutionalized annual India-E.U summits. South –East Asia, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia and Iran are special areas of its focus now. There emerges a new level of engagement with this region. India continues to engage in discussions and negotiations with its neighbours, while also maintaining a meaningful dialogue and diverse co-operation in all other areas. It has continued its close traditional links with Afghanistan and hope that the political process launched in that country will at last return peace and stability to that troubled land. The post 9/11 world scenario and the war against terrorism in Iraq have clear impact on India's outward orientation and foreign policy formulations.

In the heart of its democracy, India has been able to define an identity respectful of each and everyone's specificity. It is home to one of the largest Muslim communities of the world with over *120 million* believers. The religious patchwork of India offers to each minority, whether it is 2 million Christians, 16 million Sikhs or the Buddhists, Jains and Parsis, the possibility of keeping alive their own religious beliefs in harmony with *Indian Identity*. This original and exemplary synthesis is difficult to achieve and makes India find a unique place in the emerging world order. Its will to promote democracy is undoubtedly the strongest political message of the Indian nation. At the heart of the new world geography, lays the democratic challenge. The Indian democratic experience is a testimony that a force of history and traditions is not an obstacle. India is a proof that the *Universality of Human Rights* is a realistic emotion. It shows us that state secularism can be reconciled with the vigour of identity and beliefs.

India's protracted and energetic effort on the G-4 (Group of Four) platform, to gain a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council has seen positive developments. Its claim is justified by the fact that *one-sixth* of the humans should not be ignored in the world arena. India is emerging as a *regional power in South Asia*, proved to be the *world's largest and successful democracy, fourth largest economy* in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) and is a *Human Resource Super Power*. India is actively engaged in *U.N peace keeping* operations worldwide. It can be very well cater to the aspirations of the emerging developing world.

Non-Aligned Movement can play an important role in the process of ongoing new global equations. Over much of the last 50 years, the movement stood against the bi-polarity of the cold-war era and pursued the larger political agenda of that period. Today, its relevance is in the active promotion of the multi-polar world and its effective articulation of developmental concerns within the framework of globalization and sustainable development. India has certainly not lost its primacy in this inter-continental setting, especially because of our image as a reservoir of knowledge-related *Human Resource* and *Resourcefulness*. Indian leadership has proposed for constructive ideas to promote energy related co-operation among Asian and African

countries .A new *Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP)* is coming up only because of the potential resources in India.

Given the fact that, it was only a decade ago that India and South-East Asian countries started the process of re-discovery, the gains are anything but significant. India's membership in *ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)* since 1996 and its active role is looked upon as a useful contribution to the maintenance of security, especially in the western flank of ASEAN. One of India's major strengths today is the ability to build constructive partnership with all current and future world powers including U.S.A, Russia, E.U, Japan and Brazil etc.

Disarmament is the main agenda item of 20th century, which has been carried forward in this century. Our nuclear tests of 1998 were strongly projected as our repudiation of this cause. The security guarantees that we sought and did not get, the transformed international political structure of the last decade and difficult security environment in our neighbourhood have been clearly explained to the world. India is satisfied that that most of the world now sees its actions through the prism of India's perspective. India will retain its commitment to universal disarmament and will continue to argue for it in world fora. India has been addressed as a *Responsible State with Advanced Nuclear Technology* by the U.S Recently. It not only shows that ,India is gradually achieving its recognition as nuclear State but is also more responsible and committed when it comes to non-proliferation ,though criticism too are on.

Cold War was more conceptual than military. The new war in our times is unfortunately both unconventional and violent. We are having better taste of it in our doorstep, every other day. *Terrorism* has entered a new age. It no longer defends a specific political case, but makes its own out of the most diverse nationalist and religious demands. It takes advantage of religious crisis in order to maintain instability and chaos. The shape of the *New World Order* will be determined by the success of pluralistic, democratic societies in destroying the ideology and hate which drives terrorism. India will spare no effort in convincing the world of the imperative urgency in acting against it. The war against terrorism is not a clash of civilizations; it is a confrontation between *civilization* and *barbarianism*.

The *New York Times* columnist Thomas Freedman argues that India, with its talented low-cost brainpower, is on the way to becoming the *innovation hub* of the global economy. Information and biological technologies are twin engines pulling India's economy. An essential underpinning to the weight and vibrancy of our international role is the economic strength of the country. Our ambitious *growth plans*, the *second generation reforms* and the *fiscal discipline* which we are pursuing vigorously are meant to achieve this. We have to take advantage of the size of our *1.2 billion* strong Indian markets to attract investments on a scale which will make ours' the fastest growing economy in the world. The potential for our economic performance has been recognized for long.

An inescapable reality of the *New World Order* is the complex web of transnational economic linkages which we call *globalization* .India has highlighted in the Doha WTO ministerial

conference that *globalization* has barely improved the economic growth of the developing countries and that income gaps have worsened. India will continue to argue strongly for a globalization regime, which can further the objective of *equitable development*. *Sustained growth*, faster than that of major industrial as well as most developing countries, globally competitive *manufacturing firms*, remarkable strides in *IT* and *IT* enabled services, commitment to further reforms and observance of multilateral rules and codes of conduct in international dealings have all contributed to India's economic image abroad. India is becoming a preferred destination for relocation of production of *multinational companies* and *Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO)* operations.

More than the free economy, the crucial factor ahead is socio-economic management and apt use of socio-economic instruments to make the earth a happier place to live in. Two critical elements in this regard will be efficient management of conflicts, ethnic or otherwise and efficient housekeeping which includes equitable distribution of wealth and other resources. India has given priority to poverty reduction, job creation and support of the agricultural sector. India has shown the world that economic growth and concern for the greater good are not incompatible. India now is the biggest international service provider in information technologies and this is at a time when the western countries are experiencing a real shortage of man-power in this very field. As a scientific power, India today is also a key player in space research. Western print media have started addressing India as the world's emerging *knowledge superpower*.

India requires far more than government policies or initiatives to effectively assume the *new role*. Wherever foreign policy or national projection abroad is involved, we must show a *unity of purpose* and *unanimity of views*. Our leaders must tell the world where we wish to stand and what we expect from the powers that matter. A *New Global Order* must speed up the process of faster economic growth and ensure equitable social justice. The gap between the rich and the poor nations must be bridged. The task ahead is gigantic but as a nation of more than one billion people we have to carve out a new role for us in the new order we wish to evolve.

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