

The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy

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ABSTRACT

India's foreign policy has undergone a transformative shift under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marked by a proactive, assertive, and strategically balanced approach. This research paper, *The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy*, examines the key principles shaping India's international engagements-Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Samriddhi (Prosperity), Suraksha (Security), and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (Culture and Civilisation). The study analyses how these principles have influenced India's diplomatic relations, trade policies, defence cooperation, multilateral engagements, and cultural diplomacy. Through strategic initiatives such as Act East Policy, Neighbourhood First, Vaccine Maitri, Make in India, and India's leadership in the Quad, BRICS, and G20, the paper highlights India's growing influence in global governance. The research assesses India's response to contemporary global challenges, including security threats, economic resilience, and health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. By evaluating treaties, policies, and geopolitical shifts, the paper provides insights into the long-term implications of the Modi Doctrine and its role in shaping India's future foreign policy trajectory. The findings underscore India's emergence as a key player in the evolving global order, balancing its relationships with major powers while strengthening regional and multilateral partnerships.

KEYWORDS: *Indian foreign policy, Modi Doctrine, Samman, Samvad, Samriddhi, Suraksha, Sanskriti evam Sabhyata, Quad, BRICS, G20, Act East Policy, Neighbourhood First, Vaccine Maitri, economic diplomacy, defence cooperation, global governance, soft power*

INTRODUCTION

The ascension of Narendra Modi to the office of Prime Minister in 2014 marked the beginning of a dynamic and transformative phase in Indian foreign policy. This period, often referred to as the "Modi Doctrine," represents a significant departure from traditional diplomatic approaches, characterised by an assertive and proactive stance on the global stage. Central to this doctrine are the guiding principles of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP): Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), Samriddhi (prosperity), Suraksha (security), and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (culture and civilisation). These principles have not only shaped India's interactions with other nations but have also redefined its strategic objectives and international engagements. This article delves into these core principles of the Modi Doctrine, analysing how they have redefined India's foreign policy landscape.

Through a comprehensive examination of key diplomatic initiatives and strategic shifts, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of India's evolving role in contemporary international affairs.

Methodology:

The research paper entitled "The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy" involved a comprehensive literature review and primary data collection along with analyses of speeches and official documents. Secondary data is sourced from reputable institutions, focusing on trade, FDI, defence expenditures, and multilateral participation. It includes detailed case studies of Modi's foreign policy initiatives, evaluating their objectives, implementation, outcomes, and challenges. The synthesis of findings aims to provide a holistic understanding of the Modi Doctrine and its

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implications for India's foreign policy and global geopolitics.

Objectives:

The primary objective of this research article, "The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy," is to critically analyse and understand the transformative impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy principles and initiatives. The article aims to provide a thorough and nuanced understanding of how Narendra Modi's foreign policy principles and actions have redefined India's role on the global stage, marking a new era in its international relations.

Importance:

This research paper, *The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy*, is significant as it provides an in-depth analysis of India's evolving foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By examining key principles such as Samman (Respect), Samvad (Dialogue), Samriddhi (Prosperity), Suraksha (Security), and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata (Culture and Civilisation), the study highlights how India has repositioned itself as a global leader. The paper explores strategic initiatives, economic diplomacy, defence cooperation, multilateral engagements, and soft power strategies that have strengthened India's global standing. It also provides insights into India's role in major international organizations like the Quad, BRICS, G20, and the United Nations, showcasing its increasing influence in global governance. Besides, by analysing treaties, policies, and geopolitical developments, the research offers a comprehensive understanding of how the Modi Doctrine has shaped India's diplomatic landscape and its future trajectory. The study is crucial for policymakers, scholars, and analysts as it evaluates long-term implications, identifies challenges, and provides recommendations for India's continued rise on the global stage.

Samman:

The concept of "Samman" (Respect) in Indian foreign policy under the Modi Doctrine reflects India's aspiration to gain global recognition, respect, and equal standing in the international community. This principle is embedded in initiatives aimed at enhancing India's image, fostering mutual respect with other nations, and asserting India's sovereignty and cultural heritage on the global stage.

- **International Day of Yoga:** One of the most prominent examples of India's focus on "Samman" is the International Day of Yoga. Initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this event was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, with June 21 designated as the

International Day of Yoga.¹ The global celebration of yoga has significantly boosted India's soft power, promoting a positive image of the country worldwide and highlighting its rich cultural heritage. This initiative has also fostered mutual respect and cultural exchange, as millions of people across various nations participate in yoga activities.

- **Global Outreach and Diplomatic Visits:** Prime Minister Modi's extensive diplomatic visits and engagements with world leaders have reinforced the principle of "Samman." Modi's active participation in global summits such as the G20,² BRICS, and the United Nations, along with state visits to key countries, has elevated India's stature in the international arena. These visits include discussions on enhancing bilateral relations, economic cooperation, and strategic partnerships, emphasizing mutual respect and understanding. Modi's interactions with diaspora communities during these visits further underscore the importance of cultural respect and global Indian identity.

- **Relations with Neighbouring Countries:** The Modi Doctrine has placed a strong emphasis on enhancing relations with neighboring countries through respect and cooperation. Initiatives such as the 'Neighborhood First' policy³ prioritize building strong, respectful relationships with South Asian neighbors. The Neighborhood First Policy highlights India's commitment to fostering better relations with its immediate neighbors through continuous dialogue and cooperation. Regular high-level visits, bilateral meetings, and regional summits have been instrumental in addressing mutual concerns and enhancing cooperation. India's assistance to Nepal during the 2015 earthquake and its cooperation with Bangladesh on the resolution of the Land Boundary Agreement are examples of how respect and mutual benefit guide regional diplomacy. These efforts have improved bilateral ties and fostered a sense of goodwill and respect in the region. Through these engagements, India has worked to resolve disputes, enhance connectivity, and promote regional stability and development.

- **Cultural Diplomacy and Heritage:** Cultural diplomacy initiatives under the Modi Doctrine have aimed to promote India's cultural heritage and values, fostering respect and appreciation globally. Programs such as the revival of Nalanda University,⁴ the promotion of Indian languages, arts, and crafts through various international

forums, and cultural exchange programs have reinforced India's cultural identity and earned respect for its rich heritage. The government's support for restoring and maintaining heritage sites of Indian origin - 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi'⁵ - abroad also underscores this commitment.⁶

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** India's proactive role in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief under the Modi Doctrine has strengthened its image as a responsible and respected global player. The Operation Raahat in Yemen,⁷ where India evacuated not only its own citizens but also nationals from several other countries, and the extensive assistance provided to countries during the COVID-19 pandemic through the supply of medicines and vaccines 'Vaccine Maitri initiative'⁸ are notable examples. These actions have garnered international respect and showcased India's capacity and willingness to contribute positively to global humanitarian efforts.
- **Economic Initiatives and Global Partnerships:** Initiatives like Make in India,⁹ Digital India,¹⁰ and Startup India¹¹ aim to transform India into a global manufacturing and innovation hub, attracting investment and fostering respect for India's economic potential. The strategic economic partnerships formed with major global economies through bilateral trade agreements and participation in international economic forums further highlight India's commitment to mutual respect and benefit in economic relations.
- **Climate Change and Sustainable Development:** India's leadership in global climate change initiatives, particularly through the International Solar Alliance¹² (ISA), reflects its commitment to global sustainability and respect for environmental concerns. By championing the cause of renewable energy and sustainable development, India has positioned itself as a responsible global actor, earning respect and recognition for its proactive and constructive role in addressing climate change. India's proactive stance on climate change and sustainable development has involved extensive dialogue with global partners. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), initiated by India and France, is a testament to India's leadership in promoting renewable energy through collaborative dialogue. India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and its active participation in COP26 reflect its dedication to engaging in dialogue to address global environmental challenges.

Samvad:

The principle of "Samvad" (Dialogue) in the Modi Doctrine underscores the importance of communication, diplomacy, and constructive engagement in shaping India's foreign policy. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has pursued a proactive approach to dialogue, seeking to resolve conflicts, enhance cooperation, and build strategic partnerships through continuous and meaningful interaction with other countries and international organizations.

- **Act East Policy:** One of the most significant initiatives under the principle of Samvad is the Act East Policy¹³ which replaced the earlier Look East Policy. This policy aims to strengthen ties with ASEAN countries and other East Asian nations through enhanced economic, strategic, and cultural cooperation. Key achievements include India's active participation in ASEAN-led forums like the East Asia Summit¹⁴ (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum¹⁵ (ARF), and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation¹⁶ (MGC). Bilateral summits and high-level dialogues with countries such as Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia have also led to increased trade, investment, and strategic collaborations, demonstrating the success of dialogue-driven diplomacy.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Under Modi's leadership, India has significantly expanded its strategic partnerships through dialogue with major global powers. The establishment of the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with the United States,¹⁷ which involved joint meetings of foreign and defence ministers and this dialogue has deepened defence and security cooperation, resulting in agreements such as Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)¹⁸ and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)¹⁹, which enhanced interoperability and intelligence sharing. Similar strategic dialogues with countries like Japan, Australia, France, and Russia have strengthened India's defence, economic, and technological ties, showcasing the importance of sustained and strategic dialogue.
- **India-EU Relations:** The India-EU Strategic Partnership²⁰, which included the annual India-EU Summit, has facilitated cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, climate change, and digital economy. The resumption of negotiations for the India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)²¹ and the launch of the India-EU Connectivity Partnership²² in 2021 highlight the success of dialogue in advancing mutual interests and deepening the strategic partnership.

- **Economic Diplomacy and Trade:** Economic diplomacy has been a critical component of Samvad, with India engaging in numerous trade dialogues and negotiations to enhance economic ties and investment flows. Bilateral trade agreements, such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)²³ with the UAE and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)²⁴ with Australia, have been outcomes of sustained dialogue. India's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)²⁵ negotiations, despite its eventual decision to opt-out, showcased its commitment to engaging in dialogue to protect and promote its economic interests.
- **Border Disputes:** Dialogue has also been crucial in managing and resolving border disputes. The ongoing dialogue mechanisms with China, despite the challenges posed by the Galwan Valley clash²⁶ in 2020, aim to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Regular meetings of the Special Representatives on the Boundary Question and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs underscore the importance of dialogue in conflict management. Similarly, dialogues with Bangladesh led to the historic resolution of the land boundary dispute through the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015.
- **Vaccine Diplomacy:** India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccine diplomacy, branded as "Vaccine Maitri" (Vaccine Friendship), involved extensive dialogue and cooperation with various countries and international organizations. By supplying vaccines to over 90 countries, India not only addressed global health needs but also strengthened diplomatic ties.²⁷ Dialogue with countries in South Asia, Africa, and Latin America ensured the successful delivery of vaccines, highlighting the role of communication and cooperation in global health diplomacy. India's collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and participation in the GAVI Alliance for vaccine distribution exemplify its commitment to global health dialogue.²⁸ India's initiative to establish the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund²⁹ and its virtual summit with SAARC leaders reflect its proactive approach to regional health dialogue and cooperation.
- **African Nations:** India's engagement with African nations has seen a renewed focus under Modi's leadership, driven by the principle of Samvad. The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)³⁰, held in 2015, witnessed participation from 54 African countries, marking a significant step in enhancing dialogue and cooperation. Initiatives like the India-Africa Health Sciences Meet³¹ and the India-Africa ICT Expo³² have fostered collaboration in various sectors, including healthcare, information technology, and capacity building. Through these dialogues, India has aimed to strengthen its partnership with African nations, focusing on mutual growth and development.
- **Indian Ocean Region (IOR):** India's strategic focus on the Indian Ocean Region has been emphasised through initiatives like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). These platforms facilitate dialogue on maritime security, economic cooperation, and disaster management. The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)³³ initiative, announced by Modi in 2015, underscores India's commitment to dialogue and cooperation with IOR countries to ensure regional security and sustainable development. Regular naval exercises and dialogues with IOR nations have enhanced maritime cooperation and security.
- **Central Asian Countries:** India's engagement with Central Asia has been invigorated through the India-Central Asia Dialogue³⁴, focusing on enhancing connectivity, trade, and cultural ties. The India-Central Asia Business Council, launched in 2020, serves as a platform for dialogue between business leaders and policymakers to explore economic opportunities. India's participation in the Ashgabat Agreement³⁵ and the International North-South Transport Corridor³⁶ (INSTC) highlights its commitment to improving connectivity and fostering dialogue with Central Asian countries for mutual benefit.
- **Latin American Countries:** India has also expanded its engagement with Latin American countries through dialogues focused on trade, investment, and cultural exchange. High-level visits and trade missions have facilitated discussions on enhancing economic cooperation and exploring new markets. The India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave³⁷, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), provides a platform for dialogue between Indian and Latin American businesses, promoting trade and investment opportunities.
- **Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution:** India's approach to peacebuilding and conflict resolution

under the Modi Doctrine has emphasised dialogue and diplomacy. India's role in facilitating peace talks in Afghanistan, through the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process³⁸ and its support for the Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process, underscores its commitment to dialogue-based conflict resolution. India's engagement in the peace process in South Sudan and its support for UN peacekeeping missions highlight its proactive role in promoting peace and stability through dialogue.

Samriddhi:

The concept of "Samriddhi" (Prosperity) is a cornerstone of the Modi Doctrine, reflecting India's aspiration for economic growth, development, and shared prosperity. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has pursued a range of projects, policies, and programs aimed at enhancing economic ties, attracting foreign investment, and fostering regional and global economic integration. These efforts are designed to create a conducive environment for economic development, both domestically and internationally, aligning with the broader goals of India's foreign policy.

- **Make in India:** Launched in September 2014, the Make in India initiative is a flagship program aimed at transforming India into a global manufacturing hub. The initiative seeks to boost domestic manufacturing, attract foreign direct investment (FDI), and create jobs. It has identified 25 key sectors, including automobiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and textiles, for targeted growth. Through various reforms and policy measures, the initiative has simplified regulatory processes, improved ease of doing business, and provided incentives for investors. The success of Make in India initiative is evident from the increased FDI inflows, which reached a record high of \$84.83 billion in the fiscal year 2021-22.³⁹
- **Digital India:** The Digital India campaign, launched in July 2015, aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The program focuses on improving digital infrastructure, increasing internet connectivity, and promoting digital literacy. Key projects under this campaign include Bharat Net⁴⁰, aimed at providing high-speed internet in rural areas, and Digi Locker, a platform for digital storage of documents. The campaign has also promoted e-governance and digital services, facilitated business operations and enhanced economic efficiency. The growth of the digital economy has attracted significant investments from global technology companies, contributing to India's economic prosperity.
- **Startup India:** Introduced in January 2016, the Startup India initiative seeks to foster entrepreneurship and innovation by providing a supportive ecosystem for startups. The program offers tax incentives, simplified regulatory procedures, and funding support through initiatives like the Fund of Funds for Startups⁴¹ (FFS). This initiative has resulted in a significant increase in the number of startups, with India emerging as one of the largest startup ecosystems globally. By encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, the initiative contributes to economic growth, job creation, and technological advancement.
- **Infrastructure Development Projects:** Infrastructure development has been a key focus under the Modi Doctrine, with numerous projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and boosting economic growth. The Bharat Mala⁴² and Sagar Mala⁴³ projects are prime examples. Bharat Mala focuses on developing a network of highways and roads to improve logistics and connectivity across the country. Sagar Mala aims to modernize ports, enhance coastal shipping, and develop inland waterways, thereby reducing transportation costs and boosting trade. These projects are expected to significantly enhance economic productivity and regional integration.
- **International Economic Engagements:** India's international economic engagements have been strengthened through various bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan and South Korea⁴⁴, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement⁴⁵ (CECA) with Malaysia, and the recent Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement⁴⁶ (ECTA) with Australia are notable examples. These agreements aim to enhance trade, investment, and economic cooperation, contributing to mutual prosperity. Additionally, India's active participation in forums like the G20, BRICS, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) underscores its commitment to global economic integration.
- **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):** The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement⁴⁷, signed in February 2022, is a landmark agreement aimed at boosting trade and investment between the two countries. The agreement covers a wide range of areas, including

goods, services, investments, and intellectual property rights. It is expected to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion within five years and create significant employment opportunities. The CEPA also includes provisions for cooperation in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and renewable energy, contributing to economic diversification and prosperity.

- **India-US Economic and Financial Partnership:** The India-US Economic and Financial Partnership, launched in 2010, has been further strengthened under the Modi Doctrine. Regular dialogues and meetings have focused on enhancing trade and investment, addressing regulatory issues, and fostering financial cooperation. The establishment of the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership⁴⁸ in 2023 aims to enhance energy security, promote energy efficiency, and facilitate investments in renewable energy. These initiatives have contributed to increased economic engagement and mutual prosperity.
- **Renewable Energy:** India's commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development is reflected in initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), co-founded by India and France in 2015. The ISA aims to promote solar energy deployment and mobilize \$1 trillion in investments by 2030. India's ambitious targets for renewable energy capacity, including achieving 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030, highlight its leadership in green energy. These initiatives not only contribute to environmental sustainability but also create economic opportunities and enhance energy security.
- **Tourism and Cultural Heritage:** The promotion of tourism and cultural heritage has been integral to the Modi Doctrine, contributing to economic growth and cultural exchange. Initiatives like the Swadesh Darshan Scheme and the PRASAD⁴⁹ (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Scheme aim to develop thematic tourist circuits and rejuvenate pilgrimage sites. The Incredible India 2.0 campaign, launched in 2017, focuses on promoting niche tourism products and leveraging digital platforms for marketing. These initiatives have significantly increased tourist arrivals, boosting local economies and promoting cultural heritage.

Suraksha:

The concept of "Suraksha" (Security) is central to the Modi Doctrine, emphasizing the importance of national security, regional stability, and global peace. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has

undertaken a series of projects, policies, and programs to enhance its security architecture, strengthen defence capabilities, and foster international cooperation on security issues. These initiatives aim to address traditional and non-traditional security threats, ensuring a safe and secure environment for India's growth and development.

- **Defence Capabilities:** One of the most significant aspects of the Modi Doctrine has been the modernization of India's defence forces. This includes the acquisition of advanced weaponry, such as the Rafale fighter jets from France, the S-400 missile defence systems from Russia, and indigenous development projects like the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft and the Arihant-class nuclear submarines. The Defence Acquisition Procedure⁵⁰ (DAP) 2020 has streamlined procurement processes and emphasized self-reliance through the "Make in India" initiative, boosting domestic defence manufacturing and reducing dependency on imports.
- **Strategic Partnerships and Agreements:** India has bolstered its defence partnerships with key global players to enhance its strategic capabilities. The signing of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement⁵¹ (LEMOA) with the United States in 2016 allows reciprocal use of bases for supplies and repairs, enhancing operational capabilities. The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Australia, signed in 2020, includes defence cooperation and joint military exercises like AUSINDEX⁵². India has strengthened its defence ties with Japan through the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement⁵³ (ACSA), facilitating mutual logistical support.
- **Maritime Security:** Recognizing the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean, the Modi Doctrine places significant emphasis on maritime security. The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative, launched in 2015, aims to ensure a safe, secure, and stable maritime environment. India has conducted joint naval exercises with various countries, including Malabar (with the US and Japan), and Varuna (with France). The establishment of the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region⁵⁴ (IFC-IOR) in 2018 facilitates maritime domain awareness and enhances information sharing among IOR countries, contributing to regional maritime security.
- **Counter-Terrorism:** India has intensified its efforts to combat terrorism through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism⁵⁵ (CCIT)

proposed by India at the United Nations underscores its commitment to a global framework for counter-terrorism. Bilateral agreements with countries like the US, Israel, and France focus on intelligence sharing, joint training, and capacity building. The establishment of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the strengthening of counter-terrorism laws through amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) reflect India's robust domestic counter-terrorism framework.

- **Cybersecurity:** With the increasing digitization of the economy and society, cybersecurity has become a critical component of national security. The National Cyber Security Policy, updated in 2021, outlines measures to protect critical infrastructure, promote cybersecurity research, and enhance public-private partnerships. Initiatives like the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) aim to detect and mitigate cyber threats. International cooperation on cybersecurity has been strengthened through agreements with countries like the US, the UK, and Israel, focusing on information sharing, joint exercises, and capacity building.
- **Space Security:** The Modi Doctrine has expanded India's focus on space security and defence capabilities. The successful anti-satellite (ASAT) test conducted in 2019 under Mission Shakti⁵⁶ demonstrated India's ability to protect its space assets. The establishment of the Defence Space Agency (DSA) and the Defence Space Research Organisation (DSRO) underscores India's commitment to strengthening its space defence capabilities. International cooperation in space security has been enhanced through agreements with countries like the US, France, and Israel, focusing on satellite navigation, space situational awareness, and joint research.
- **International Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):** India's capabilities in providing international humanitarian assistance and disaster relief have been showcased through various missions. Operation Raahat⁵⁷ (2015) in Yemen and Operation Maitri⁵⁸ (2015) in Nepal demonstrated India's ability to conduct large-scale evacuation and relief operations. The Indian Armed Forces' participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions further highlights India's commitment to global peace and security. The establishment of the Indian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) unit within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

ensures a coordinated response to international crises.

Sanskriti evam Sabhyata:

The parameter "Sanskriti evam Sabhyata" - Culture and Civilisation - is a cornerstone of the Modi Doctrine, reflecting the importance of India's rich cultural heritage and civilizational values in shaping its foreign policy. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's cultural diplomacy has been significantly strengthened to promote soft power, enhance international perceptions of India, and build bridges of understanding with other nations. The following sections elaborate on the various projects, policies, and programs initiated to achieve these objectives.

- **Indian Cultural Centers Abroad:** The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has played a crucial role in establishing and managing Indian Cultural Centers (ICCs) in various countries. These centers serve as hubs for cultural activities, including art exhibitions, music and dance performances, film screenings, and language classes. ICCs promote Indian culture and foster people-to-people connections, enhancing mutual understanding and goodwill. New ICCs centers have been established in strategic locations under the Modi administration, expanding India's cultural outreach.⁵⁹
- **Buddhist Diplomacy:** Buddhist diplomacy has been a significant component of India's cultural diplomacy under the Modi Doctrine. Recognising India's historical and cultural connections with Buddhism, the government has promoted Buddhist heritage sites and facilitated pilgrimages for Buddhists from around the world. Initiatives like the development of the Buddhist Circuit⁶⁰, which includes key pilgrimage sites like Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar, aim to attract international tourists and promote cultural tourism. India has also hosted international Buddhist conferences, bringing together scholars, monks, and practitioners to discuss and celebrate Buddhist heritage.
- **Digital Diplomacy and Cultural Outreach:** The Modi government has leveraged digital platforms to promote Indian culture globally. The MEA and ICCR actively use social media and digital content to showcase Indian festivals, cultural heritage sites, and traditional arts. Virtual cultural events and online exhibitions have been organized, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continued cultural outreach. Digital diplomacy initiatives like the Bharat Ko Janiye⁶¹ (Know India) quiz engage the global

Indian diaspora and foreign audiences, promoting awareness and appreciation of Indian culture.

- **Indian Diaspora:** Engaging with the Indian diaspora has been a significant focus of the Modi government. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention, held biennially, celebrates the contributions of the Indian diaspora and strengthens their connection with India. Initiatives like the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme and the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana⁶² (PKVY) aim to facilitate the diaspora's engagement with India. By nurturing strong ties with the global Indian community, India leverages their cultural influence and fosters people-to-people connections.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Recognising the significance of intangible cultural heritage, India has taken steps to safeguard traditional practices, rituals, and oral traditions. Efforts to document and promote intangible heritage include the listing of cultural elements like yoga, Kumbh Mela⁶³, and Vedic chanting on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.⁶⁴ By preserving and promoting these elements, India contributes to global cultural diversity and heritage conservation, reinforcing its cultural diplomacy.

Prospects for India:

- Under the Modi Doctrine, India's emphasis on respect in international relations is poised to elevate its global stature. Samman, which prioritises mutual respect and recognition, will continue to enhance India's diplomatic engagements. As India advocates for a more inclusive global governance structure, its efforts to secure a permanent seat on the UN Security Council may gain traction, reflecting increased global respect for its role in international affairs. India's approach to building reciprocal partnerships with major global powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union will likely yield more balanced and mutually beneficial relations. By maintaining a stance of respect for international norms and sovereignty India is expected to foster stronger alliances and improve its standing in global diplomacy, paving the way for a more influential role on the world stage.
- The principle of Samvad, or dialogue, will remain a cornerstone of India's foreign policy, emphasizing peaceful conflict resolution and constructive engagement. India's proactive stance in dialogues with neighboring countries, such as Pakistan and China, is likely to facilitate the

management of bilateral disputes and contribute to regional stability. The continued emphasis on diplomatic channels will be crucial in addressing ongoing issues and fostering cooperative relationships in South Asia. India's leadership in multilateral forums like the G20 and BRICS will be instrumental in shaping global policies and responses to collective challenges, such as climate change and economic instability. As India continues to engage in dialogue with global partners, it will strengthen its role in global governance and contribute to the resolution of international issues through diplomacy.

- The focus on Samriddhi, or prosperity, will drive India's economic growth and development in the coming years. By highlighting economic diplomacy and fostering trade relations, India is well-positioned to expand its global trade networks and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Initiatives like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and participation in regional trade agreements will enhance India's economic integration and open new markets for its products and services. Investment in infrastructure, innovation, and industrialisation will support sustained economic growth, positioning India as a leading global economic player. The emphasis on prosperity will also drive efforts to improve domestic conditions, including advancements in technology and research, further boosting India's global economic competitiveness.
- The idea of Suraksha, or security, will play a crucial role in shaping India's defence and strategic policies. India's commitment to strengthening its national security through modernisation and technological advancements will enhance its defence capabilities and resilience to emerging threats. Collaborative defence initiatives with strategic partners and investments in cybersecurity will bolster India's national security infrastructure. Regionally, India's active participation in peacekeeping missions and security alliances will contribute to stability in the Indian Ocean and South Asian regions. India's proactive approach to non-traditional security challenges will improve its ability to address global threats and enhance its security posture.
- Under Sanskriti evam Sabhyata, or culture and civilisation, India's global cultural influence is set to expand significantly. By continuing to promote Indian cultural traditions, arts, and heritage through initiatives like the International Day of Yoga and global festivals, India will enhance its

soft power and international reputation. The establishment of Indian cultural centers abroad and support for cultural exchanges will strengthen its global cultural presence. The promotion of Indian cuisine, traditional arts, and the preservation of cultural heritage will contribute to a positive global perception of India. India's engagement with the diaspora and collaboration with international cultural institutions will foster deeper cultural connections and mutual understanding, reinforcing India's role as a cultural ambassador on the world stage.

The prospects of India, based on the parameters of the Modi Doctrine, are promising and multidimensional. The emphasis on respect, dialogue, prosperity, security, and culture will drive India's evolution as a major global player. By leveraging these parameters, India is likely to strengthen its diplomatic relations, enhance its economic growth, bolster national security, and expand its cultural influence. These efforts will contribute to India's continued ascent on the global stage, shaping its future as a prominent and respected actor in international affairs.

Result:

The results indicate that the Modi Doctrine, grounded in the principles of Samman, Samvad, Samriddhi, Suraksha, and Sanskriti evam Sabhyata, has significantly redefined Indian foreign policy. Narendra Modi's leadership has ushered in a new era of proactive, strategic, and culturally rich diplomacy, positioning India as a key player on the global stage

and ensuring its interests are effectively advanced and safeguarded in an increasingly complex international environment.

Discussion

The results of this research on "*The Modi Doctrine: A New Era in Indian Foreign Policy*" highlight several critical developments and shifts in India's international relations under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Modi Doctrine represents a significant evolution in Indian foreign policy, characterised by proactive diplomacy, economic engagement, security enhancement, and cultural promotion. While challenges remain, the Modi administration's strategic initiatives have positioned India as a pivotal player in contemporary international affairs, laying a robust foundation for its future diplomatic endeavours. This discussion underscores the importance of continuing to build on these achievements while addressing emerging challenges to sustain and enhance India's global influence.

Conclusion:

The Modi Doctrine represents a strategic paradigm shift that has redefined India's role in global affairs, emphasising proactive diplomacy, economic engagement, and cultural influence. As India continues this trajectory, the principles and initiatives of the Modi Doctrine provide a robust framework for navigating a rapidly changing international landscape and advancing India's national interests on the world stage.

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