# Realigning India's Foreign Policy

## What is the issue?

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- The emerging multipolar world is becoming complicated for the binary choices and easy solutions.
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- It is high time that India realigns its foreign policy, and its recent moves are indicative of this.
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## What is the emerging scenario?

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- The world is facing power shifts, uncertainty and competition over geopolitical ideas and political models.
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- India is at a unique geographical position at the rimland of Eurasia and at the mouth of the Indo-Pacific.
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- India has slightly drifted towards the U.S. for the past decade.
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- However, it is now rediscovering a posture and policy for a multipolar world.
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- It is also taking greater responsibility for its own future and destiny.
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- India’s foreign policy is likely to be driven by a dual attention.
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- It is the balance of power and order building in the continental and maritime environment around the subcontinent.
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## What are the recent developments?

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- India is altering its approach to the Indo-Pacific and building deeper links with continental Eurasia.
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- This was evident with the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.
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- Prime Minister Modi's speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore signals an evolving foreign policy.
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- **World order** - Relationships with Russia and the US are based on overlapping interests in international and Asian geopolitics.
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- It is emphasized that India would project itself as an independent power and actor across Asia.
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- India would not be part of a closed group of nations or aggregate Indian power in a bloc.
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- It will however chart out its own course based on its own capacity and ideas.
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- India would stand on the side of principles, and not behind one power or the other.
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- This is seen to be a renewed emphasis on non-alignment.
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- The preferences are referred to as the "strategic autonomy".
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- **China** - India-China relations is a complicated one, having "many layers".
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- China's rise has undoubtedly increased the demand and space for India to increase its region-wide engagement.
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- However, stability in the relationship is important for India and the world.
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- **Indo-pacific** - India’s role in the vast Indo-Pacific is no longer envisaged as a China-centric one.
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- India does not see the Indo-Pacific Region as a strategy or as a club of limited members.
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- It is nor a grouping that India seeks to dominate.
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- India’s engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region would rather be an inclusive one.
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- It would entail pluralism, co-existence, open-ness and dialogue.
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- India would prefer that the rules and norms should be based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few.
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**Source: The Hindu**

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