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## Developed India at 2047: India's role in Regional Security and Peace Building

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### Abstract

India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, often referred to as Viksit Bharat 2047, is closely linked with its role in ensuring regional security and promoting peace in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Due to its strategic geographical location and historical commitment to the principles of peaceful coexistence, non-violence, and diplomacy, India has consistently worked towards maintaining stability and cooperation in the region. This paper examines India's role as a regional peace builder through its foreign policy initiatives, diplomatic engagement, and participation in regional organizations such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BBIN. It also highlights India's policies including the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and the SAGAR initiative, which aim to strengthen economic cooperation, maritime security, and political stability. The study further discusses India's humanitarian assistance during regional crises and its efforts to combat terrorism and cross-border threats through cooperation and intelligence sharing. At the same time, the paper identifies key challenges such as border disputes, regional nationalism, and geopolitical competition, particularly with China and Pakistan. The study concludes that achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 requires a balanced approach that integrates economic growth with strong national security, strategic partnerships, and effective diplomacy. By strengthening regional institutions and promoting cooperation, India can emerge as a responsible regional leader contributing to long-term peace, stability, and development.

**Keywords:** South Asia. India Peace, Security, cooperation, defence

### Introduction

India plays an important role in South Asia due to its strategic location India is located at the centre of South Asia connecting South Asia Central Asia Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region when to its location India plays a crucial role in regional security and stability India with its firm belief in peaceful coexistence has adopted policy based on nonviolence peaceful coexistence India has always advocated the policy of non intervention peaceful coexistence that is further exemplified in its advocacy of concept of VasudevKutumbam.

India is land of Gandhi whose non-violent principles made him immortal in the annals of history. His disciple our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru further promoted his policy. Since its inception as a nation India has followed policy of peaceful coexistence and non aggression.

India owing to its geographic location is surrounded by several countries. India promoted policy of Panchsheeland and led Non-Alignment Movement advocating dialogue and diplomacy over aggression India has founded its foreign policy on these pillars. This policy of peaceful coexistence has helped our country to become a developed economy with flourishing trade and commerce . India share its border with several countries in South Asia and maintain diplomatic cultural and economic relation with them. India aims to maintain peaceful cooperative relations with its neighboring countries but border dispute with Pakistan and China has led to several wars. India has maintained its stance and promotes regional peace through organization like SAARC.

India's ambition of Vikasit Bharat by 2047 requires a stable economy which is possible only when economic growth is supported by a stable foreign policy and national security. National Security refers to the protection of a country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, citizens, and national interests from internal and external threats. It involves the ability of a state to safeguard itself from dangers such as war, terrorism, cyber-attacks, economic instability, and political unrest. Peace Building refers to the process of creating lasting peace in society by addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting harmony, cooperation, and stability.

India is taking several political, economic, diplomatic, and military steps to maintain regional security and peace building, especially in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. India follows the Neighbourhood First Policy to improve relations with neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives.

India works with regional organizations such as BIMSTEC, SAARC, BBIN. BIMSTEC ( Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). BIMSTEC consists of seven member countries located in and near Bay of Bengal region. It consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The organization focuses on seven priority sectors including trade and investments, connectivity, security and environment.

SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) is an economic and political organization established to promote regional cooperation, stability and economic development. Its purpose was to promote economic growth and social progress. But owing to regional tensions among member countries the purpose of the organization remain unfulfilled.

BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) initiative is a subregional framework focusing on enhancing connectivity through infrastructure, water resource management and trade. It provides strategic initiative India to promote cooperation in the region.

India launched Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) to maintain peace in the Indian Ocean Region. It promotes maritime cooperation, safe sea routes, and joint naval exercises with neighboring countries.

These are a few initiatives India has taken for promoting peace, security as well as promoting economic growth, stability and cooperation in the region. Being one of the biggest economy in the region India has played its role of promoting economic and political cooperation. India has always promoted policy of peaceful coexistence and regional harmony. Through the Act East Policy, India strengthens political, economic, and defense relations with Southeast Asian countries. This policy helps India maintain stability and balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region.

India encourages dialogue and cooperation through international platforms like the Raisina Dialogue, where leaders discuss global security, peace, and strategic issues. But despite its efforts India has faced several challenges from its neighbours. India has faced cross border terrorism and surge and various criminal activities for a long time. India cooperates with other countries to fight terrorism and cross-border crime. Recent policies focus on intelligence sharing, cybersecurity, and coordinated anti-terror actions to strengthen regional security. India never promotes any terrorist and criminal activities and actively cooperates with its neighbor fighting terrorism.

India plays an important role during crisis by providing disaster relief and humanitarian aid. For example during Nepal earthquake, India helps with all its might. India helps Bangladesh, Sri Lanka during cyclone by

providing medical aid , food etc India also shares vaccines and medical support with its neighbouring countries. Along with these India supports reconstruction and development in neighboring countries.

India promotes regional security and peace building through diplomacy, economic cooperation, defense partnerships, humanitarian aid, and regional organizations. These efforts aim to create stability, development, and peaceful relations in the region.

India's ambition to become a thirty trillion dollar economy by 2047 is a milestone celebrated as Vikasit Bharat vision and it cannot be realized through economic growth alone. Foreign policy and National security are not just minor or secondary issue but foundational and primary element that will shape whether this vision is truly achievable .As vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar aptly noted "economic development cannot take place if we have war like situations. "This observation puts emphasis on tight link between national security and sustained economic growth.

Earlier we have discussed how India is playing a major role as a peace builder in the South Asian region but now with increase in nationalistic movement even the smaller Asian countries take it as a challenge to perceive India as a big influence in the region.Increasing nationalist movement in the neighborhood act against India as a result India is constantly facing opposition in the region from countries like Pakistan Sri Lanka Bangladesh Nepal and Bhutan it forces India to increase its defence budget impacting economic growth . If India has to become big economy by 2047 then it must deal with these challenges.

India I on one hand wants to become a key player in the Pacific region but constantly faces challenges from China. there are many countries who sponsor terrorism in India so now India has shifted it policy to 'Link West' where India emphasizes to improve its relationship with Gulf states and Israel.

Despite facing challenges in the South Asian region India always tries to maintain its older stance initiatives like vaccine maitri and the International Solar Alliance demonstrate India's commitment yet also the uniting the very diverse global south remain an ongoing challenge.

In view of these challenges it becomes imperative for India to improve its defence investment and also deepen its technology and economic diplomacy.

India's journey to VikasitwBharat 2047 calls for a foreign policy that is realistic , strategic and closely linked to economic planning . India must make hard choices . Defencepending should increase and strategic partnership should be made.

In conclusion, India is expected to play a crucial role in ensuring regional security and promoting peace in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region by 2047. Through strong diplomatic relations, economic cooperation, and defense partnerships with neighboring countries, India aims to create a stable and secure regional environment. Initiatives such as the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, and Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) reflect India's commitment to cooperation, development, and maritime security.

By strengthening regional institutions, supporting economic development, and promoting dialogue to resolve conflicts, India can contribute significantly to long-term peace and stability. As India continues to grow economically and strategically, it is likely to emerge as a responsible regional leader that works for collective security, mutual trust, and sustainable peace in the region by 2047.

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