Presentation on 'Foreign Policy of India and Security Challenges in South Asia' at Defence University 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 by Masakui Rungsung **Ambassador of india** 

# India and her neighbours

India places neighborhood engagement at the heart of its foreign policy

Till our Borders are Secure, we cannot Emerge as a Power of importance to the world





#### **Nepal & Bhutan**

**Development assistance, hydro electricity** 





### **Pakistan**

Protracted conflict Over Kashmir issue



# Myanmar Gateway to ASEAN



## **Sri Lanka**Maritime ties



## Bangladesh

**Assistance, connectivity** 



### **Maldives**

Maritime security, climate change impacts



There is no Permanent Friend and permanent Enemy. There is only permanent interest

### **Neighbourhood First**

Political and diplomatic priority to its immediate neighbours and the Indian Ocean island states

Provide neighbours with support, as needed, in the form of resources, equipment, and training.

Greater connectivity and integration, so as to improve the free flow of goods, people, energy, capital, and information.

India has also become more forthcoming in providing support and in capacity building, including providing humanitarian assistance to Nepal or Sri Lanka.

With Bangladesh, the completion of the Land Boundary Agreement, improvements in energy connectivity and steps taken towards accessing the port of Chittagong have all been crucial developments.

India's focus on connectivity is also gradually extending outward, whether to Chabahar in Iran or Kaladan in Myanmar.

India has also expressed its willingness to develop issue-specific groupings that are not held hostage to consensus.

For example Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping — meant to advance motor vehicle movement, water power management, and intergrid connectivity

With respect to all of its neighbours, including Nepal, India has taken concrete steps over the past two years to promote goodwill and deepen economic and social connectivity

Terrorism emanating against India by entities based in neighbourhood and supported by elements of the state remains a top priority.

Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to neighbours irrespective of reciprocity. The process of both engaging and isolating despite repeated provocations is long, frustrating, and politically unpopular at home.

Regional grouping: 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit in September 2016 did not happen

## India and South East Asia













With 'Act East,' the purpose was to show greater intent in realising what had long been an aspiration for India: to become an integral part of Asia.

Economic / trade relations: \$ 70 billion. Target was \$ 100 billion

The new policy emphasizes a more proactive role for India in ASEAN and East Asian countries.

Security, peace and Asia's delicate balance of power.

Require a greater priority on improving border infrastructure, on overland connectivity to Southeast Asia via Bangladesh and India's Northeast.

2018 marks the 25 years of India-ASEAN relations

# India and the Gulf

 GCC-Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates

- Energy security
- Home to millions of Indians
- Trade and investments



Historically India had close relations with Arab world. India also strongly supported Palestine Liberation organization(PLO). India established full diplomatic relations with Israel only after 1992.

As much as 70 percent of India's oil imports come from the Middle East and North Africa. A large portion of our exports and imports pass through the Suez Canal. In recent years, a large number of Indian companies have set up businesses there.

Seven million Indians live in the region.

Trade with GCC countries \$150 billion.

India's Middle East policy is a delicate balance between combating terror and shoring up military might on the one hand, and securing energy supplies and extending economic links on the other.

## India and Africa



54 countries in Africa friends who support us since anti-colonial days Line of Credit of US \$ 10 billion & aid of US \$ 600 million Trade, Investment & Food security

## Our relations with major countries



China
Big neighbours coming together for all the issues



USA

Democracies working jointly for security, energy, manufacturing, digital economy



**UK**Investments, Skill Development



Development Corridors



Russia
An all weather friend



France
Defence, Culture, Solar Alliance



## India in multilateral forum

India's global stature is rising steadily with engagement in leading multilateral fora



Work with 192 countries. We push for reforms to make it more representative



The Bay of Bengal bringing more than 1.5 billion people together

Global economic issues



**Development cooperation** 





Development bank, counter-terrorism



52 "free and equal" countries

### **South Asia – Security Challenges**

No security structural organisation like CA(SCO) and ASEAN (ARF)

Two nuclear states-Global Powers' interest/engagement in the region

## India-Pakistan- Jammu and Kashmir issue: Background

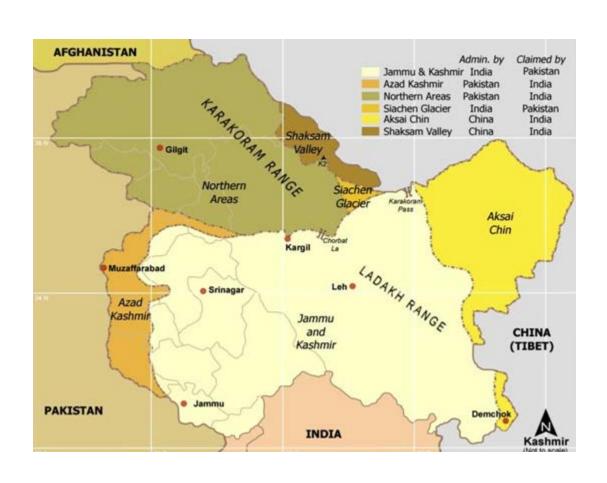
- The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir originated in the aftermath of the Anglo-Sikh War after the signing of the Treaty of Amritsar on 26 March 1846. The territory was sold out to Maharaja Gulab Singh, the Dogra Rajput ruler.
- According to the text of the Treaty of Amritsar, the "hilly or mountainous country with its dependencies situated eastward of the river Indus and westward of the river Ravee" was ceded to the Maharaja's suzerainty.

- From 1846 till 1947, the princely state was ruled as a single administrative unit.
- In 1947, the princely state of Jammu of Kashmir comprised the sub units of Jammu and Kashmir which is presently controlled by India. The so called Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan (previously referred to as Northern Areas by the government of Pakistan till 2009) including the Trans Karakoram Tract (Shaksgam Valley) a tract of 5000 square miles being ceded to China in 1963 as a gesture to cement the then evolving Sino-Pakistan strategic alliance as a result of the provisional Sino-Pak Border Agreement.
- Under the independence Act 1947- two states were created-India and Pakistan and the 565 Princely states were given the option to join either India or Pakistan or to remain as princely sates. Since the Maharaja was undecided on a preferred course, he wished to sign a Standstill Agreement with both India and Pakistan.

- Gilgit-Baltistan region was commonly termed as the strategic northern frontiers facing Britain's arch imperial rival, Russia. Precisely for this strategic value, the region was under British lease since 1935, for a period of 60 years. The lease was terminated in view of British withdrawal, and hence, the control of the region was restored to the Maharaja of Kashmir.
- India refused to sign the agreement immediately, citing other major concerns and issues facing the country in the wake of Partition. However, Pakistan readily accepted the Standstill offer, and signed it.
- However, in a serious breach of the Standstill Agreement, Pakistan not only cut off essential supplies to the Jammu and Kashmir, but also hatched a conspiracy with tribal fighters to commit aggression on the territory belonging to the princely state under Maharaja in an attempt to acquire it by force.

- In response to the Maharaja of Kashmir's appeal, the Indian government agreed to offer military assistance to avert the invasion, but on the condition that the Instrument of Accession be signed before such help could be extended. The government of India contended that without a legal sanction, they could not offer military assistance in the Maharaja's territory as it would amount to aggression in a neighbouring territory.
- Hence, the Instrument of Accession was signed in India's favour after due deliberations were held between the two sides. Post accession, India was successfully able to contain the Pakistan led aggression to a large extent. But, in course, Pakistan was able to seize a considerable chunk of territory in the eastern side of the princely state which is now referred to as the so called Azad Jammu and Kashmir by the government of Pakistan. Legally, therefore, J& K is India's.

# Map of Jammu & Kashmir



- 1965 War
- 1971 war
- 1999 Kargil

PM of India invited all SAARC countries HoS during his inauguration including PM of Pakistan

PM Modi made a surprised visit to former PM Nawaz Sharif on his Birth Day

Earlier, there had been several effort to engage at Foreign Secretary level talks

MFN status was unilaterally granted to Pakistan

- The 2001 Indian Parliament attack was an attack at the Parliament of India in New Delhi on 13 December 2001. The perpetrators were Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists.
- The 2008 Mumbai attacks (also referred to as 26/11. On 7 January 2009, Pakistan confirmed the sole surviving perpetrator of the attacks was a Pakistani citizen. On 9 April 2015, the foremost ringleader of the attacks, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, was granted bail against surety bonds of Rs 200,000 (US\$1,900) in Pakistan.

- The 2016 Pathankot attack was a terrorist attack committed on 2 January 2016 by a heavily armed group which attacked the <u>Pathankot Air Force Station</u>, part of the <u>Western Air Command</u> of the <u>Indian Air</u> <u>Force</u>
- 2016 Uri attack. The 2016 Uri attack was an attack by four heavily armed terrorists on 18 September 2016, near the town of Uri in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir. It was reported as the deadliest attack on security forces in Kashmir in two decades.
- China blocked India's move to get Pakistan-based
  Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar designated as
  a terrorist by the United Nations.

### India-China

- In any discussion of India's Foreign Policy (Act East), Sino-Indian ties are a subject of heightened attention. The report card of our ties for the last three decades is much stronger than many assume. From a situation of limited contacts and content, India-China relations have today transitioned out of their state of abnormalcy.
- We give due credit to the efforts of successive Governments on both sides who have ensured peace and tranquility on the border, even as negotiations on its settlement continue. Difficult problems, some of them pertaining to sovereignty, have not been sidestepped.
- No less significant is the ability of the two nations to work together at global forums on developmental issues. That we meet and cooperate in mechanisms ranging from EAS, G-20 and SCO to BRICS, RIC and BASIC is not a small achievement.
- On the economic side, the rapid rise of trade with China has had a profound, if mixed, implication. While it has allowed some new capacities to be built in areas like telecom and power generation, it has also impacted negatively on others. Fair market access in China itself remains an issue for Indian companies, including in globally competitive areas like pharmaceuticals and information technology.
- China continues to be the biggest trading partner of India at \$72 billion

- The current Government has taken initiatives to address these challenges and strengthening the positive direction of ties. They include a more enthusiastic welcome of Chinese investments, establishment of industrial parks, collaboration in railways and a more liberal visa regime. A full realization of the vision agreed upon between the leaders of the two nations requires relations to be continuously nurtured.
- Displaying mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns is very necessary in that context. There is an expectation in India that a partner like China would be appreciative of India's interests, especially when they are not in conflict with those of China. Combating terrorism is one such area and sanctioning of well-known terrorist leaders and organisations should not emerge as an issue of difference. Nor should reservations on developmental issues, such as India's predictable access to international cooperation and investments in the field of civil nuclear energy. It is imperative for the future of Asia, and indeed the world, that the two nations approach each other with strategic maturity.

### Challenges in the recent times

- Doklam stand off
- > BRI
- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)
- ➤ However, none of these events has done irreversible damage to bilateral relations.