

The Poll Year 2024: What It Holds For India

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1. Abstract

Post COVID-19, the ongoing Russia - Ukraine conflict, and the Israel - Palestine conflict, the world order is set to take a new turn. But a lot depends upon the upcoming general elections. The year 2024 is set to be the year of change. A turn in global governance can mean the possibilities of new policies, conflicts, and the start of new bonds of friendships between countries. As always the election year is again full of surprises and a lot is much but a guesswork through deep analysis and by observing the past events.

The paper starts by highlighting the importance of this year through the framework of elections being held in major democracies & what's in store for the people. It also highlights the impacts it can have on bilateral relations, especially with India. Then it talks about shifting alliances and major policy changes expected in this year's elections depending upon who's in power—the impact it can have on India's security and foreign policy via the dynamics of election results. The paper also talks about the journey of India so far, which has achieved a tremendous amount of progress. From its colonial legacy to the ever-changing policies that it formed has led to its growth. Finally, the paper talks about the future of South Asia. About the region as a whole its growth, achievements & future trajectories.

Keywords: Elections, Foreign policy, security , Geopolitics.

2. Introduction

The year 2024 has become a year of elections with large open possibilities and trajectories. More than three dozen countries, with a total population of four billion people, will see their citizens choose their heads of state. Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Belgium, Mexico, the European Parliament elections, and not the least, elections of two of the largest democracies of the world, India and the USA, will define the trajectory of the new global order.

How will the regional & global dynamics change, will major - realignments shift after elections, what impact will it have on the ongoing wars in Ukraine & Gaza? Also the future of South Asia where major regional powers are going for elections this year. This comprehensive analysis will provide an adequate answer to all these questions while providing history, context & hope for the future.

3. 2024 the year of the elections

The year 2024 is set to come up with a lot of surprises. It is the year of elections. From small countries like Bhutan high in the Himalayas, the newest democracy, to the extent of the western hemisphere- the United States, the oldest democracy. Then there is India, the stature of being the largest democracy in the world.

Apart from the arbitrators of democracies going for elections, there are other countries as well going for elections this year. Bangladesh, a close neighbor of India with which it has historical ties, is all set to present to the world its election results which were held in January. Poll results which came on January 9 have declared incumbent prime minister Sheikh Hasina as its victor once again. The first of many surprises. Sheikh Hasina's tenure has seen a close cooperation with India. Her government has valued stronger ties with India in sectors of defense, trade & economy, given India's security concerns & strategic concerns of China making inroads in South Asia. The election results in Bangladesh with the return of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a sign of relief. India has supported the Sheikh Hasina government very openly in the past & valued its ties with her government.

Pakistan, another country situated close to India, is heading for elections. A hybrid democracy with the military as its puppet master. The elections are said to be held in February by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Analysts predict the return of Nawaz Sharif this year, imprisoned years earlier by former Prime Minister Imran Khan who had the backing of the Pakistan army. It doesn't long for the tables to turn around in Pakistan. Looks like history is repeating itself in Pakistan, Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif has returned to his homeland from exile in London to contest in upcoming general elections. The army for its part has given the green card to Nawaz Sharif. As for cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, the future looks bleak after turning its back on the army & failing to save the country from the dire economic crisis. Imprisoned for corruption cases during his tenure, the Election Commission has rejected nominations filed by Imran Khan & his party PTI. As for Nawaz Sharif, he has openly stated peaceful ties with India. However, that has been the rhetoric for Sharif in the past as well. Once in power, all Pakistani leaders develop an obsession with *Kashmir* & anti-India stance. Seeing how he will take the country out of the economic crisis will be interesting.

The United States is another major country going for elections later in November. President Joe Biden of the liberal democratic party will be contesting for power again. His opposition rival is

Donald J. Trump of the republican party. President Biden's tenure was rather a slow & sleeping presidency for most of its part until Russia came knocking on Ukraine's door & later In the Middle East Israel - Hamas war both of which are ongoing. President Biden came to power by promising to make America unite again & restore democratic ideals after the attack on the white house by radicals & Black Lives Matter movement. Contrary to what Donald Trump had promised. Making America great again & having a hard stance on world order. As far as ties with India are concerned, the current government of Biden hasn't been grand like the Trump administration. Looking closely, Indo-US relations have largely been stable & grown for most of its part in defense, trade, diplomacy & critical emerging technologies. According to figures from the US Department of Commerce, two-way trade in goods & services has risen from \$146 billion in 2019 to \$159 billion in 2021. On the diplomatic front, experts believe convergence between the two far outweighs differences on issues such as India's lack of public Criticism of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This will remain as long as China is the strategic competitor of the US in the world. Experts say whoever comes to power in the USA. India's relationship will remain mostly stable.

India, the largest democracy will itself be a center of attention this year. India is going to polls in April. The current government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has shown the world what India is capable of in terms of foreign policy & defense capabilities. Although there's still a long way to go, the current government has made progress in the growing stature of India. Hosting the G20 summit, A group of economic powerhouses has increased India's global image as an emerging power. On the security front too, from sharp responses in Balakot & Galwan to the alleged killings of militants overseas in Europe & Pakistan has increased its security arena. In defense, military modernization programs by creating the post of chief of defense staff, space division have helped in the growth of India's power. In space too by landing the unmanned vehicle in the moon's orbit last year & firing the laser anti-satellite weapon it has enlarged its potential in space. Prime Minister Modi's party BJP will be contesting for power for the third time in a row. Against the left-leaning INDIA alliance. A group culmination of all opposition parties against the BJP. The tenure of Prime Minister Modi has seen some backlash by being loose on the economy & job sector according to the opposition.

4. Major shifts & realignments

This year is set to change the tone of international outlook due to elections in major countries. Change in government can mean a change in international dynamics as well, as different administrations have different outlook of dealing with issues.

Talking about shifting alliances, the most awaited election this year would be that of the United States of America scheduled to take place in November this year. Considered to be one of the most watched elections as change in US administration can mean a drastic change in policies depending upon who's in power at the white house. Currently In the U.S., Mr. Biden is facing historically low approval ratings for a sitting President. All opinion polls show him trailing potential Republican rival Donald Trump. At 81, Mr. Biden is the oldest President in the history of the U.S., and his cognitive decline is no longer unnoticeable. Mr. Biden's support among Democrats is unraveling. The total collapse of his leadership in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war and the unrelenting bombing of Gaza by Israel has accelerated this trend. But the Democrats have no option other than being led by him. In the Republican party, some contenders seek to challenge Mr. Trump but he remains the frontrunner for party nomination by a distance. In the U.S., The Democrat-controlled States and Republican ones have divergent approaches on various issues -- abortion, gun control, and immigration, which are among the perennially contentious topics. States often conflict among themselves or with the federal administration on these issues.

Looking at Indo-US relations, A continued Biden presidency will mean a continuation of the policies framework we have witnessed till now. President Biden also attended the G20 summit hosted by India this year. Later in November few cracks began to appear when a US court in New York filed a chargesheet naming an Indian official in a plot to kill a US national & a Sikh separatist on American soil. However, it has been so far so good, handling this issue with sensitivity. The US raised the matter with Indian officials tho not going out in public outcry like the Canadians. Both governments know the strategic importance of each other's partnership, especially in their cooperation against countering China in the Indo-Pacific region. The fact that the US court filed the chargesheet & went ahead with the indictment by raising this issue with Indian officials & also noting that the US is allowing a few anti - Indian elements to operate within its soil means there's still a long way to grow the relationship in trust & cooperation. In 2023 both governments launched critical & emerging technology initiatives. The ICET is a major milestone in the U.S.-India partnership, which is defined by strategic security and technology cooperation.

Even the trade partnership has reached new heights. The Indian government has taken a lot of steps to facilitate fast fast-tracking of American companies establishing manufacturing units in India. US companies are India's biggest source of foreign direct investment. Several US agencies are working in India. For example, Ms. Melinda Pavek US consul general based in India said "Being based in Kolkata, a key hub of India's Act East Policy, has helped us understand that the developmental of ports, inland waterways & multi-modal logistics infrastructure in this part of India has significant potential to improve regional connectivity. She said that they are closely following the progress of

port infrastructure development at Kolkata in Haldia & hold meetings with the Kolkata port Authorities to explore potential areas of commercial engagement in their projects”.¹

Even in the Russia - Ukraine war India took a neutral stance but the US didn't criticize India for its stance. The US on the other hand took a hard stance on Russia & is assisting Ukraine in its war. Analysts predict that Russia is ready to talk with Ukraine but is waiting for a change in the US administration. If Trump is re-elected we could see the return of the bonhomie between Vladimir Putin & Donald Trump that we saw last decade. On the Middle East front, the Biden administration is trying to balance between the Arab world & Israel in the war in Gaza. It has shown support to Israel by supplying arms & by acknowledging its right to self-defense. Towards the Arab world, it has called for a final solution to the Israel - Palestine conflict by a two-state solution. Secretary of State Blinken has been meeting Palestine authority President Mohammad Abbas in the West Bank. However, Israel's current prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the two-state solution once & for all. If Trump is re-elected we can see more direct support for Israel & specifically Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government. The US knows one thing for sure: it can't lose friends in the Middle East. The Arab world & Israel are both important for their security plans. China has started making roads to the Middle East via Iran & Qatar as far as India has cornered both Trump & Biden no matter the republican or democratic administration. The stance & policies will more or less remain the same.

Talking about India. The present Narendra Modi government has favored strong relations with the US while maintaining strategic autonomy, maintaining a balanced relationship with both Arab & Israel. Likewise with the US & Russia. Hard stance on Pakistan & Chinese aggressions. On the China front, the Indian government seems to have followed a policy of competition & cooperation. Aligning with QUAD & launching initiatives like SAGAR. While continuously engaging in border talks on the northern border. China has delayed it for too long to make any material progress. The change in government in India using the INDIA alliance taking over, the chance of which is very low the government can change a few stances by being more left-leaning. The track record of the previous congress government with Pakistani terror attacks has been very poor. Article 370 was snapped by the current government & military modernization programs initiated from an indigenous level. Make in India initiative launched to support local industry. The new opposition has vowed to make India more liberal & democratic accusing the current government of harsh treatment for minorities & doing less on the economy by just favoring the business elite. Apart from that it is hard to imagine how if the opposition were to come into power, it would deal with

¹ [US consul general in India](#)

current contemporary issues of China, Indo-US relations, those with the Middle East & with Pakistan. Whereas in the current government, we can expect the continuation of the current policies with add-ons. Even in the Indian Ocean region, the government has made investments.

5.. Impact on India's security & foreign policy

5.1 Bangladesh front

Starting with Bangladesh, the victory of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again made relief in the Indian capital policy circles. For one it shares 4,096km of border, the longest it shares than any other country. Most states that makeup India's northeast, linked to mainland India by the Siliguri corridor, share a border with Bangladesh. It is also a rapidly growing economy, Bangladesh's GDP in 2023 is estimated to have grown at 6% as per a World Bank report. India's Act East policy by linking mainland India with Northeast & east Asia gateway success depends crucially on Indo-Bangladesh relations. Here are the major security challenges India faces from Bangladesh given its proximity & porous border.²

1) Drug trade - There are a lot of incidents reported of illegal supply of drug trade via the Bangladesh border. Lots of illicit material has been caught by the BSF along the border. Drugs that are frequently seized by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) are Yaba, ganja(cannabis)& opium. Occasionally, heroin & brown sugar have also been confiscated by the force in lesser quantities than other items. According to a report compiled by Indian security agencies, the closure of the areas that crisscross the Myanmar - Bangladesh border through which drugs were being transported & the crackdown on the drugs such as brown sugar are being retailed in the Northeast besides being transshipped to other regions of India in increasing quantities.

2) Illegal migration - Since the 2015 Rohingya crisis many illegal migrants who are situated in transient camps along the border have entered or tried to enter India via the porous border. Many of them have been caught & sent back by the BSF (Border Security Force). Illegal migration which includes both refugees & economic migrants continues unabated. There is no reliable figure on the exact number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh to India however an analysis of population growth & demographic statistics for Bangladesh & India in the last four censuses 1981,1991,2001,2011 suggests that the numbers exceed 15 million. This large

² [Bangladesh GDP growth at 6%](#)

migration of illegal immigrants has serious implications for its resources & national security. It has also fueled insurgency in border states like Assam, Manipur & Mizoram.³

3) Militant hideouts - A variety of insurgent groups from the Northeast have historically taken shelter along the Indo-Bangladesh border such as ULFA, NCNK, etc. Pakistan has exploited the situation & supported these militants by providing arms. According to a report dated 28 September 2023 quoting BSF IG Tripura Frontier Rk Mishra had confirmed that 22 militant hideouts still exist across the Bangladesh border. The report also mentions that five to six camps are located just 5km from the Indo-Bangladesh border & most of them are in & around Chittagong hill track in Bangladesh. The influx of these militants & criminals causes a huge security problem for India.

The victory of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina means these issues can be worked out peacefully through negotiation.

5.2 Pakistan front

Pakistan general elections are around the corner. Another neighbor with which India has been watchful. Tho it may not be surprising for Indians if ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif is back in power. The military is favoring the Sharif family it seems. If & when Nawaz Sharif gets back in power we are expected to see a few continuation of the trend that the Pakistani state has been following no matter who's in power. The 2003 ceasefire agreement was put into place during Imran Khan's tenure. It didn't take long for Pakistan to violate it again by sending militants last year. Here's what to expect if Sharif is back in power,

1. Cross-border terrorism - Pakistan may have been on the gray list of FATF & in a dire economic crisis but what Nawaz Sharif can't prevent even if he is in power is to ban the militants' encroachment from Pakistan's POK border into Kashmir. India shouldn't feel too optimistic & watch Pakistani elections with an eagle eye vision. We have to remember that both the Kargil war & URI attacks took place during Sharif's tenure; the only explanation from the Pakistani state was that it wasn't aware of any such happenings.

³ [Illegal migration](#)

2. Kashmir interference - Pakistani military cum ISI nexus is bound to continue its terror menace in Kashmir. The only thing that has changed is their strategy. Changing names from JEM & LET to look like homegrown such as the resistance front. Since the Modi government scrapped Article 370, Pakistan has been trying to find justification for its cause in Kashmir. Recently after the G20 delegates meeting in Srinagar, though the terror scale has come down, the past few months have seen targeted killings of Kashmiri Hindus & ex-servicemen. If Sharif rises to power his shift may focus on economic house ordering but we can expect such targeted attacks on civilians & military personnel.
3. Proximity to China - The Iron Brothers as they are called the China-Pakistan economic corridor started forming ideas during Sharif's tenure. India has objected to the violation of its territorial space as the CPEC passes through POK. Pakistan given its dire economic situation under Nawaz Sharif's tenure will try to get closer than ever to China & will seek aid from its all-weather friendship. We have to understand that China encourages Pakistan to poke India to get India engaged in prolonged conflict so it gets time to settle in the Indian Ocean region & South Asia. The Gadwar port is now up & running & even houses a few Chinese military personnel. This bonhomie will have to be a top priority for Indian security planners in the future.

5.3 India's own election results are bound to impact its security & foreign policy challenges

1) China front - Apart from the above-mentioned challenges, India will find itself still in a stalemate situation locked in a border conflict that was initiated by China in Galwan Valley 2020. Speculations suggest that China is deliberately trying to keep the conflict prolonged after 7 rounds of commander-level conferences. Chinese aggression seems to have been initiated by a numerous factor which makes the Indian military focus more on two-front war situations.

2) US & Quad - This year would also shape how the Quadrilateral security dialogue would form its shape. An alliance of like-minded democratic countries India, the US, Japan & Australia. Meant to counter China's naval assertiveness in the region. Much depends now on Indo-US relations on redefining its objectives & keeping the alliance stronger. The continuation of the Narendra Modi government would mean continuing the Indo-US close strategic partnership in countering China's global ambitions, especially in the Indian Ocean.

3) Maldives row - The current India Maldives row speaks volumes of how concerning the Indian Ocean region has become. The current Mizu government has become friendlier with China & anti - India in the sense that recently his government has even ordered a deadline for Indian military personnel stationed in Maldives to leave the country by March. India sees the Maldives as a strategic point to counter Chinese activities in the Indian Ocean region. After India's general elections, this would be India's top foreign policy challenge to deal with.

6. India's journey so far ahead, a depth analysis

India has come a long way from its colonial past. Getting independence in 1947, India moved & climbed the stage of development at a slow & steady pace. Getting its door open through the economic policies of liberalization, privatization, and globalization. In 1991 during the Manmohan Singh government. Destined to become a world market for global investors. India hosted the G20 summit on Indian soil. Considered a foreign policy milestone, with heads of the US, Europe & Arab world, the richest & finest economies in the world. G20 includes the top 20 well-performing economic countries in the world.

6.2 India's global stature has increased in the past few years.

1) Largest Democracy

With 91.2 crore eligible voters, India is the largest democracy in the world. Around 69% of the eligible population is registered to vote, out of this 67% exercised their franchise in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, compared to 45.67% in 1951. For conducting Lok Sabha elections the country is divided into 543 constituencies.

2) 6th largest economy

India toppled massive challenges ever since its independence to become the 6th largest economy in the world. At 3.17 trillion, the Indian economy is ranked behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany, & United Kingdom. Independence itself was a huge turning in economic history. Its per capita income has grown 500 times since 1947. The last 75 years have not only brought structural changes in the economy but also brought it to par with developed economies.

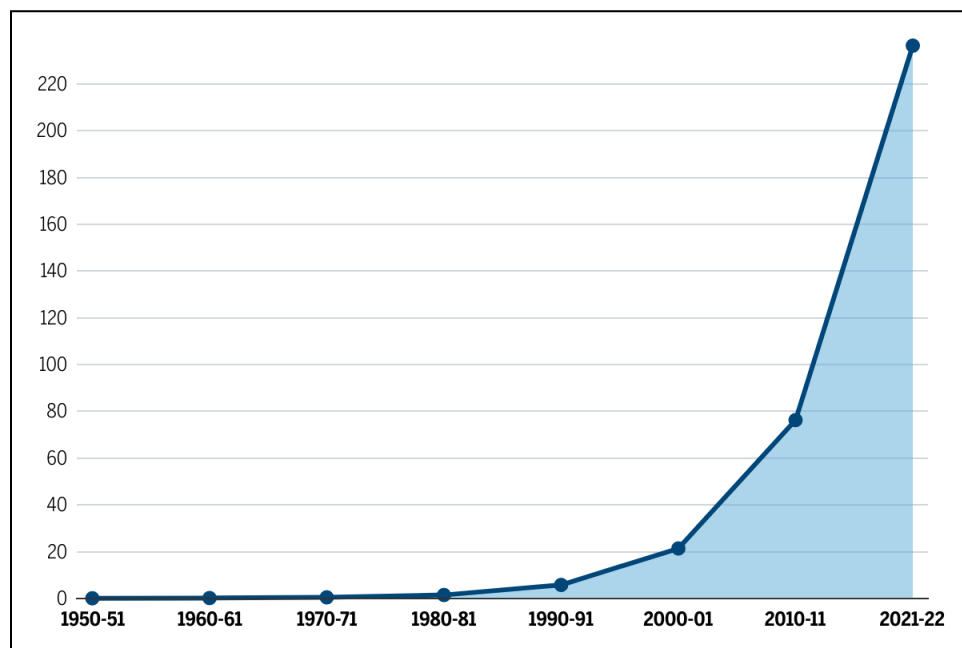
Notably, India's Independence was in itself a huge turning point in its economic history. There were several challenges like the financial crisis of 1981, 1991, the global recession in 2008, demonetization & more. India not only battled all such challenges but is also touted to be the fastest-growing major economy. In its latest world economic outlook report, the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India to retain its fastest-growing major economy tag for the current & next fiscal year. An Average GDP Growth of 7.3% percent per annum.

The fiscal deficit has been brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19. The country attracted \$239 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the last five years.

At \$3 trillion India's economy is the 6th largest in the world. (graph shows GDP at current prices in RS lakh crore)

The figure below shows over 10 times the growth in GDP in the last 20 years.



At \$3 trillion. India's economy is the 6th largest in the world. (graph shows GDP at current prices in RS lakh crore)

Source

<https://m.timesofindia.com/india/in-charts-indias-journey-since-independence/articleshow/93573389.cms>

3) Exports a key driver of growth

India exported a mere 1.27 billion worth of goods & services in 1950 - 51. Exporting to countries with a favorable economic climate helps in increasing the GDP levels as well as helps in reducing unemployment. Commodities like jute, Tea, cotton & textiles dominate the export commodities to

the rest of the world. Agricultural products, including GI-tagged products, are being exported through various exit points, including airports. For example - Jalgaon, Banana & Bhagalpuri Zardalu mango have been exported to UAE & UK respectively. Top ten destinations of export during April- February 2022-23 along with percentage shares - USA (17.46%), UAE (7.03%), Netherlands (4.53%), China (3.33%), Singapore (2.69%), Bangladesh (2.60%), UK (2.25%), Saudi Arabia (2.37%), Hong Kong (2.29%), Germany (2.25%). Growth remained almost stagnant in the next few decades as well as owing to strict policy regimes. ⁴⁵

4) Defense modernization

In the defense sector as well, the government has launched Make in India campaigns & reformed positions in the military, including the creation of the chief of defense staff, creating space, and cyber division. India has even started exporting military technology & weapons to countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Philippines, Indonesia & Sri Lanka. In a highly competitive defense market, India has recently made its market & has a huge opportunity to become a significant player. India's defense exports have reached an all-time high of approximately 16 crore (US \$ 1.94 billion) in the financial year 2022-2023, an increase of more than rupees 3000 crore from the previous FY 2021-22. Presently, Under (The Make in India campaign) India has built a 155mm Artillery gun 'system 'Dhanush" light combat aircraft ' Tejas" Surface to air missile system ' Akash", INS Kalvari, the indigenous main battle tank Arjun mk-1 A designed & developed by the DRDO. In terms of weapons export, India has exported ALH - Druv to Maldives & Nepal, fast interceptor boats to Maldives, bulletproof jackets & helmets, electronics & Indra mark 2 Radar to Sri Lanka & also gifted Dornier aircraft.⁷

5) Foreign policy

Even in foreign policy, India followed the core principle of non-alignment. Making strong partners along the way but not joining any formal alliance. It has learned very skillfully to balance between US & Russia, Arab & Israel by maintaining relations with both after exercising its strategic autonomy.

⁴ <https://static.pib.gov.in/>

⁵ [Times of India chart](#)

⁶ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1805750>

⁷ <https://www.defencexp.com/top-10-fully-indigenous-developed-weapons-for-indian-armed-forces/>

India's 'ACT EAST POLICY' announced in November 2014 is the upgrade of the 'Look East policy'. A diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic & cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels. It involves intensive & continuous engagement with Southeast Asian countries in the field of connectivity, trade, culture, defense & people to people contact at bilateral, regional & multilateral levels. It tries to meet dual objectives by improving the economic development of the North Eastern Region which is a gateway to the SouthEast Region. Under this policy, the government is planning to make a transnational - railway link from India to Bangladesh to Myanmar via the northeast region to Thailand. This railing will increase trade, interconnectivity & investment in the region.

To counter the so-called (String of Pearls strategy) by China which aims to build naval bases & economic investments in the Indian Ocean. India has come up with (The necklace of Diamonds strategy). As String of Pearls endangers India's maritime security & economic interest by way of developing its presence in the Indian Ocean, It poses a threat to the strategic clout that India enjoys in the Indian Ocean. So under the Necklace of diamond strategy, India is using a multi-pronged strategy. The strategy involves building ports, extensive coastal surveillance system radar (CSR) systems to track Chinese warships & submarines, operating Airport in the neighboring country (Sri Lanka)to keep a check on the port built by China, deepening defense ties, expanding bilateral relations with South & east Asian nations & carrying out regular military exercises with USA, Japan & Australia.

7. Future of South Asia

South Asia is a diverse region with a lot of ethnic diversity. Now elections are taking place in 3 major countries. It is bound to make an impact on the region. India needs to assert itself in South Asia if it wants to become a regional power in the area. It needs to showcase to its neighbors that it can be a security and economic assistance provider in the region. Pakistan & China will continue to cause trouble along the way. China is a dent in becoming the world's biggest power after the United States. That's why it needs to first have assets secured in its backyard. Only then can it think of becoming a hegemony. India would need to trade carefully as India too has its ambitions & increasing Chinese presence in this region can only sound alarm bells. India would need to reassure its partners that it can take responsibility for the people of South Asia. It needs to show more confidence-building measures while steadily developing its assets in the region. It needs to have more Multilateral initiatives like the Indian Ocean Symposium & SAGAR. The future of South Asia may be more challenging in the future. Looking at the past decade South Asia has come a long way in its journey of growth & development, political crisis, wars & economic disparity to the

world's attention. In the future, it is surely going to be the most watched area as two major superpowers US & China compete for geopolitics in the region with India's steady rise.

8. Recommendations

A) Follow a policy of Mutual Inclusion

India should navigate these tough waters of elections through the policy of mutual inclusion. India should engage with all relevant stakeholders & bring an air of trust between the countries in the region. From now on, India should use its diplomatic clout to build stronger ties in the region & the world. As India's stature increased through G20, India can use its clout to build influence around the Indian Ocean & in Southeast Asia as well. One thing to keep in mind is to make all countries relevant in diplomatic relations through mutual inclusion that will thus make trust between the two stronger & help in making strategic partnerships.

B) Alliances & Partnerships

The election dawn will bring new alliances & partnerships. India should continue to follow a policy of strategic autonomy while forming close strategic partnerships with like-minded countries, especially the US. India has already entered the QUAD alliance that favors like-minded countries following democracy & freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region. India would need strong support from the West particularly the US if it wants to dominate the Indian Ocean where the Chinese footprint is increasing day by day. The US has proved that it can be a strategic partner for India by sharing military technology & valuable intelligence that has helped India in the timely preparation of moving its military assets.

C) South Asians should follow democracy

As elections are around the corner in South Asia, citizens should vote for the leader who has brought prosperity, liberty & security to his country. South Asia has had hard experiences in democracy over the past decades. They also experienced colonialism at the hands of the Britishers, so they know the bitterness of dictatorship more than anyone. Looking at the political climate it is predictable who all is gonna win in these regions. The mindset of voters tells a story that the populist leaders are gonna take the cake, which means the usage of democracy as people in large numbers will vote for the most favored candidate.

9. Conclusion

So we have discussed in detail how the year 2024 is going to be the year of elections & the year of policy realignment in shifts. As major powers & democracies of the world go for elections. It is bound to bring changes in both internal & external dynamics of the region & world as a whole. This year will be a defining moment for the world at large as it is going to decide what will be the direction of global governance for the upcoming years. Issues like climate change, migration, and wars are going to get more attention, with no ending in the wars of Russia - Ukraine & Israel Hamas. The elections & the results will be deciding features for the future course of action for the global world order.

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