

# Modi's Cultural Diplomacy and Role of Indian Diaspora

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Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came into the helm of affairs, he has stressed the role of the Indian Diaspora in Indian foreign policy making because he had realized the importance of the Diaspora in his development strategy. More than 25 million members of the Indian Diaspora are scattered around the world, which includes more than 3 million Indian origin Diaspora in the United States (US). According to the Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs [This Ministry has been scrapped during National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government], the Indian Diaspora is the second largest in the world after China. Thus, it is imperative to give importance to Indian foreign policy framing. This trend is new in Indian policy making as India had hardly focused on its Diaspora to tap their resources, potential and assets that they have. In 2015, former Indian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said that 'India's soft power diplomacy now goes beyond books, culture and cinema'. Mr Modi made a total of 49 foreign trips by May 2017 to woo the Indian Diaspora. In almost every meeting during his foreign visit, he urged the Indian Diaspora to be a part of Indian development by investing in the Indian economy, by donating to the clean river Ganges program, and participating in Indian rural development programmes as well. In this context, this article expounds the role of the NDA government's cultural diplomacy in Indian foreign policy making. This article also seeks to answer what the Indian government's strategy to tap the 'resources' of the Indian Diaspora is. Finally, the article examines the role of the Indian Diaspora in the development strategy of India.

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Historically, India has attracted a plethora of countries around the world due to India's colossal natural resources. Thus, many of the countries started trading with India to tap into and to use these resources for their growth. While trade relations increased between these countries, cross migration amongst people in the form of workers, traders and business community had also been bolstered over a period of time. In this process, the Indian community has also started migrating to different parts of the world for various reasons. However, the migration of modern Indians started during British rule of India. It is during this time that Indians were sent to different parts of the world according to the requirements of the colonial power to work in their industries and farms. Indians were sent to Sri Lanka, Africa, and Latin America and so on. Later on, in post-independent India, many unskilled Indian labourers started moving to the Gulf region for better employment opportunities. Furthermore, after the introduction of economic reforms (liberalization, privatization and globalization) in Indian economic policy in the 1990s, Indian economy integrating with the global economy led to the massive migration of Indian skilled labour to the Western countries. This was mostly due to the improvement of India's people's living standard, better education facilities and highly inspirational youth seeking better employment opportunities from different parts of the world.

However, these young Indians had not severed their cultural roots and sense of Indianness while they sought career advancement. Therefore, the Diaspora maintained good connection with their relatives in India wherever they hailed from. Over a period of time, the Diaspora became rich in terms of their economic, political, social and cultural influence in the countries wherever they got settled and in international institutions. The best example of this is Sam Pitroda, who was the man responsible for the telecommunications revolution in India during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister.<sup>1</sup> After a long hiatus, the present NDA government desires to return focus on the Indian Diaspora's resources for the development of the Indian society. This article explains how the Soft Power strategy of Modi's foreign policy has played a prominent role in mobilising the Indian Diaspora around the world to be part of its development strategy since 2014.

## Indian Diaspora around the World

The term 'Diaspora' is derived from the Greek word *diaspeirein*, i.e. 'dispersion'. This word meaning evolved over a period of time and now refers to a person or group of people belonging to the same cultural background and origin but residing in outside of the country for differing reasons<sup>2</sup>. However, the present Indian government does not follow any specific definition, only the people of the independent Indian republic who are residing in outside of it. It also refers to descendants of India<sup>3</sup>. These days, the Indian diaspora is comprised of non-resident Indians (NRI's), Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs), and overseas citizens of India (OCI). However, in 2015, PIO and OCI card holders were merged under one category-OCI<sup>4</sup>.

Indian migration to different parts of the world has a long and storied history. It is said that hundreds of years ago Indian traders had set up various trading posts in the Persian Gulf and South East Asia. Later, when India came under British rule, thousands of Indians were recruited to work in British colony plantations in and around the various parts of the world. They settled in from Fiji to Mauritius and from South Africa to the Caribbean Basin. It is said that the Indian Diaspora is present in around 130 countries of the world, with a total population of 27 million<sup>5</sup>. However, Indians migrating to Western countries is relatively a new trend. From 1960 onwards, people have migrated to those countries for better employment opportunities; for example, in 1960, there were only 12000 Indians in the US, by 1980 it reached 210000 and at present it is said that there are more than 3 million Indians living in the United States of America<sup>6</sup>. The Indian diaspora has settled outside of the United States as well (UK – 1.5 million, Canada – 1 million, South Africa – 1.2 million and the Middle East – 6 million). It is estimated that the total assets of the Indian Diaspora around the world is close to \$1 trillion, half of which are financial assets<sup>7</sup>. This implies that if the Indian government can make the Indian Diaspora shift their focus towards their ancestral places, it would be a great change that they can bring to build India. And according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, by 2017, Indian nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$2.46 trillion, while the annual income of the Indian Diaspora is estimated to be \$400 billion, which is around 20 percent of the Indian GDP<sup>8</sup>. India is the largest recipient of migrant remittances in the world, receiving over \$50 billion in 2010. Furthermore, it said that an estimated 15 percent of these inflows or roughly

\$8 billion is generated by European Union countries, which is a figure of around 0.6 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product<sup>9</sup>. This figure suggests that the Indian government should mobilise and make them participate in the Indian government development strategy. In return, the Diaspora also receives immense benefits in terms of economy, connections, employment opportunities and overall Indian development. Furthermore, the present Indian government is encouraging the Indian Diaspora to contribute their economic and financial resources towards India so that they can be used for its development.

### **India's Foreign Policy after Cold War**

Since 1990, the foreign policy of India has gone through several changes in terms of policy making to accommodate itself in newly emerging trends in international relations. As it is known that the collapse of the Soviet Union (USSR) led to the end of the Cold War in world affairs. However, India had to face a number of hindrances to frame coherent foreign policy as this was the time where India was ruled by unstable coalition governments until 1999. Indeed, India lost its path during this phase despite integrating its economy with the global economy due to consistent inconsistency governments during this phase<sup>10</sup>. All these changes forced India to change its policy structure to involve itself actively in global affairs. Apart from that, acute domestic and international problems compelled India to reframe its foreign policy and accordingly the pragmatic considerations in changing the new dynamics of international politics<sup>11</sup>. However, in today's era of economic globalization and multipolarity, India has been striving hard to improve its relations with the US and Western world as well as establishing relations with other southern world countries. Furthermore, India's foreign policy framers consistently embraced multiculturalism in foreign policy objectives to develop India, and to engage actively in international relations. The changes which took place were unprecedented and quite in contrast to the rigid bipolarity and the East-West ideological rivalry period. Nonetheless, this has been marked by ambiguity among Indian foreign policy makers with regard to transnational cooperative arrangements.<sup>12</sup>

It is a well-known fact that after the end of the Cold War, multilateralism and globalization have gained momentum in world politics. Hence, naturally India had to inculcate multilateral diplomacy in its foreign policy. Likewise, to bolster India's relations with major coun-

tries in international relations, India became a part of G-20, IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa), G-4, BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation), and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) etc. (Indian Foreign Ministry 2017). These organizations and groups have played a key role for promoting Indian foreign policy objectives. In fact, India has been playing a significant role in these groups as they are prominent groups in present international relations. Another reason to become a member of these groups was the global nature of these groups and the fact they consist of many globally emerging nations.

### **Modi's Foreign Policy**

Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came into the helm of affairs, Indian foreign policy became more pragmatic and strategically more vocal looking at the kind of scenario that is prevalent in current international relations. The world looks topsy-turvier now. So, Indian foreign policy had to adopt a balancing view on many global issues without affecting its bilateral and multilateral relations with the regional and global powers. Thus, the rise of Prime Minister Modi as a charismatic and populist leader has redefined Indian foreign policy through its use of soft power both at regional and global level<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, during the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election, the NDA prime ministerial candidate Mr. Narendra Modi asserted that political stability, progress and peace in the region are essential for South Asia's growth and development<sup>14</sup>. Further, he promised that once NDA government was formed, he would then pursue friendly relations with neighbouring countries. In actualizing his words, Prime Minister Modi visited Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh within 100 days of his inauguration.<sup>15</sup> Demonstrating great vigour and zeal to the 'neighbourhood first' policy, Mr Modi in his foreign policy has focused mostly on neighbourhood countries and as a result, these nations were prioritized in his foreign policy. This was evident during his oath taking ceremony as prime minister of India, where he invited all the South Asian leaders. However, his foreign policy ambitions were derailed slowly. If we consider the prevailing environment in international relations, indeed, during that time, Indian foreign policy was mainly shaped by realism, coexistence, cooperation and partnership<sup>16</sup>. With major powers like the US, Russia and China, India took a very strategic ap-

proach without affecting its relationship with one another. India still projects that it is a strong ally of the US and Russia along with China. Prime Minister termed this a 'strategic autonomy' during his visit to Singapore at Shangri la dialogue on 1 June, 2018<sup>17</sup>. Narendra Modi invited former US president Obama for Republic day celebrations in 2015; later, he invited China's president Xi Jinping, Russia's President Vladimir Putin to India and he also went those countries to strengthen the relations. This sort of bonhomie has been clear on numerous occasions. But sometimes it gives impression that Indian foreign policy relation with US improved unprecedentedly after Modi came into helm of affairs<sup>18</sup>. The truth is that India never allowed its camaraderie to become affected with a longstanding trustworthy ally in international relations, with Russia. Furthermore, when it comes to China, it seems like they are challenging India in international relations continuously on a regular basis. In fact, it was probably due to India's growing relations with the US, and also partially because that India was trying to undermine Russia's importance in Indian foreign policy objectives. But its looks like these relations have been brought into balance with regular meeting with the emissaries of these countries.

In addition, it looks like the NDA government is slowly ignoring non-alignment organizations, which once used to be the backbone of the Indian foreign policy. Further, due to the impact of global recession in 2008, the Eurozone still striving hard to overcome that blow to revive their economy, as Scholar Rachel Dobbs (2018) reported that after ten years of global financial recession in 2008, the PIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) countries are now slowly recovering<sup>19</sup>. According to the 2018 World Investment Report by the UN conference on trade and development (UNCTAD), global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows fell by 23 percent in 2017, i.e. \$1.43 trillion from \$1.87 trillion in 2016. Likewise, FDI flow to India also fell from \$44 billion in 2016 to \$40 billion in 2017<sup>20</sup>. Thus, the slow growth nature of world economy, and paltry foreign direct investment and investment crunch led to the end of many Indian development projects, and India needs to focus more on resources of the Indian diaspora who are scattered around the world in order to revive these projects. The Indian diaspora have settled in many parts of the world and have occupied key positions. Therefore, if India could mobilize the community, they would possibly invest in India to help accelerate the growth of the struggling Indian economy. To involve

them in Indian developmental projects, India's policy makers have offered significant places to the Indian Diaspora in its policy making apart from depending on their remittances, for example, Dr. Arvind Panagaria (Former National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog vice chairperson, earlier worked as professor at Columbia University) and Arvind Subramanian (Former economic advisor to Indian government and once worked as an economist in International Monetary Fund). Furthermore, to encourage the Indian diaspora, Indian government has framed several attractive policies, for example, Made in India, and VAJRA (Visiting advanced joint research), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA) scheme, and Digital India project, Minimum Referral wages and Know India Program etc<sup>21</sup>. Hence, India is strategically moving its step keeping in view its growth as a global player in the international economy and the enigmatic nature of world politics, so as to keep up with global economy. In order to realise this, India is trying to reach out to the Indian Diaspora since they have occupied key positions in many global private and public institutions and often play a strategic role in the countries wherever they are settled. That is the why Modi government, while framing its foreign policy objectives based on each individual country, underscores the importance of Indian diaspora. That was reflected in the first ever speech of Prime Minister Modi made at Madison Square Garden (New York City), and later speeches at Allophones Arena (Sydney) and Wembley Stadium (UK). These are all quintessential for Mr Modi's focus on the Indian Diaspora in mobilizing them to become part and parcel of Indian development. Thus, the soft power role has been shown in Indian foreign policy. The question that then arises is: what exactly is soft power?

### **What is Soft Power?**

Power is the important phenomenon of international relations that shapes global affairs. Therefore, power plays a major role in foreign policy making. The dominant theory of international relations is realism and it revolves around the concept of power itself. Power implies an ability to get what one wants from others and can take numerous forms. Scholar Nye (2006) argues that power has three components to achieve, which are:

- Coercion
- Payments, and
- Attraction (Soft Power)<sup>22</sup>

For instance, coercion implies the US attack on Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Yet another example was that of the North Korean nuclear imbroglio, where payments primarily involved Western powers supplying food to them, in order to pressurize them to abide by the norms of international relations. Likewise, Soft Power is also as dominant as hard power in international relations. The concept of Soft Power discourse in international relations originated during the early 1990s. The first proponent of this concept was Joseph Nye. He defined soft power as 'the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payment'.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, Soft Power has three components according to him, namely:

- Culture
- Ideology, and
- Foreign Policy<sup>24</sup>

The British historian Niall Ferguson described Soft Power as 'non-traditional forces such as that of cultural and commercial goods'. Furthermore, Nye (1990) argues that if a state can make its power status legitimate in the eyes of other nations, there would be less probability of facing resistance from other nations. If dominant powers of culture and ideology are more attractive, other countries will follow<sup>25</sup>. Today many nations use a combination of hard power and soft power. This is called smart power policy<sup>26</sup> and it is the trend of present world politics. This has been reflected in Indian foreign policy since the recent past.

### **India's Soft Power Assets**

India's soft power is not a recent phenomenon. India has been projecting its soft power for centuries. Historically, India has been a melting pot for innumerable number of religions, communities, languages, cultures and its practices over centuries. Yoga, Ayurveda and Bollywood have laid the foundation for promoting the soft power of Indian foreign policy in the present days.

Since its independence, India started building relations with global as well as regional powers. In the process of reaching out to the Indian Diaspora, in 1948, KPS Menon, the then Indian foreign secretary, wrote to the 'Heads of Indian Missions and Post Abroad', had sought reports of Indian descent whoever settled there and their employment, economic, political positions and their treatment in those countries<sup>27</sup>. To track and build relations with international actors and the Indian Diaspora, the Indian government established two institutions. These



two institutions namely, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in the year of 1950, and Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) in the year of 1943 were set up to deal with the Indian Diaspora affairs<sup>28</sup>. In 2001, ICWA was awarded national importance status in accordance with an act of Parliament. The act states that the ICWA primarily works for the promotion of Indian and international affairs and to promote India's relations with other countries through study, research, discussions, lectures, exchange of ideas and information with other organizations engaged in foreign affairs both within and outside India<sup>29</sup>. The ICCR objective was to participate and to implement policies and programmes relating to India's foreign cultural relations and to promote cultural exchange with other countries and peoples<sup>30</sup>. Thus, both these organizations played crucial roles in establishing good cultural and foreign relations since the independence of India. Until 1990, Indian foreign policy makers did not use these resources aptly. This of course does not mean that Indian leaders were unaware of the tools. Considering the stature they had in international relations, it was instead India's policies and leaders that were called the symbols of soft power until 1990.<sup>31</sup> Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekananda and many other personalities played a prominent role in spreading Indian soft power around the world.

Furthermore, Indian freedom fighters and thinkers like Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo and Jawaharlal Nehru often stressed the synthesis of diverse values, and cultures for the rise of the Indian nation. In fact, Nehru's concept 'Unity in diversity' conceptualizes the soft power nature of the Indian nation<sup>31</sup>. As a matter of fact, Indian Soft Power assets and their principles, attracts the leaders of many global countries even till today. For example, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary on October 2, 2018, former president of US, Barack Obama, observed that, Gandhi is a rare gift to world. Gandhi's principles like 'Non-violence' and 'Ahimsa' continuous to inspire millions across the globe, which includes Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King Junior and Barack Obama<sup>32</sup> (The Indian Express 2018). Because of this diverse nature, its growing nature in an emerging global economy and economic and human resources paved the way for establishment of strong relations with many countries in international relations. In particular, a major emphasis has been put on the East Asia and South East Asia region and along with the developed countries in the world<sup>33</sup>. Apart from that, it has bolstered

relations with other major powers in world politics. More importantly, through political and ethnic heritage, India has popularized Gandhi's non-violence and Jawaharlal Nehru's non-alignment movement at international level. These ideals and policies are still relevant in current international relations and they can be still considered soft power assets of Indian foreign policy.

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Apart from that, Bollywood, the popular film industry of India, also laid the foundations for promoting the importance of Indian soft power in its foreign policy objectives. For example, in 2015, when Modi was supposed to go visit Xian, Amir Khan went to China to promote his movie *PK*. The reason was Amir Khan's earlier movie *3 Idiots* was successful, particularly amongst Chinese youth. This means India tried to let Chinese people know about India and Modi's arrival to get warm welcome for Modi<sup>34</sup>. Additionally, a few of the Bollywood movies have been based on diasporic themes to attract a more diasporic audience as well as to make them feel that India is concerned about them. For example, movies such as *KalHo Na Ho*, *Kabhi Khusi Kabhi Gam* are based purely on the lives of the Indian Diaspora. Bollywood annual film award ceremonies are sometimes held in Europe, the Middle East and America<sup>35</sup>. Many of the Bollywood programs, audio release functions, and movies are shot in different global cities to attract the Indian Diaspora<sup>36</sup>. In brief, these are some of the quintessential examples of promoting Indian foreign policy by means of its soft power. Therefore, the globalization of Indian movie industry has played a key role in promoting Indian soft power in international relations.

### **Modi's Cultural Diplomacy**

Recently, Indian leaders have been increasingly focusing on India's Diaspora, its multicultural ethos, and its ancient practices like yoga. In fact, the Indian diaspora played a key role in the UN marking International Yoga Day on June 21 every year<sup>37</sup>. However, this trend intensified right after Narendra Modi came into the helm of affairs in the year 2014. As a part of India's foreign policy promotion, there has been an increased activism to draw attention to and employ India's soft power in global affairs<sup>38</sup>. Unlike his predecessors, Modi since the beginning of his tenure has tried to impress the Indian diaspora and augment their role in his foreign policy objectives. Prime Minister Modi started interacting with the Indian diaspora wherever he went, be it at Madison Square Garden in 2014 in New York (US), Shanghai (China) in 2015, Fiji

in 2015, and Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2016, Brussels in 2016.<sup>39</sup> Recently, during his Abu Dhabi visit in January 2018 he addressed the Indian Diaspora about India's success during his prime ministerial tenure. On 2 October, 2016, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Mr Modi inaugurated Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (Indian Diaspora Centre) stating that:

“Indian Diaspora should be looked at, not just in terms of its numbers, but also in terms of its strength. Modi said that for years the term “brain drain” has been in vogue. But if we look at the Diaspora as our strength, we can convert this into “brain gain”<sup>40</sup>.

In order to tap their resources, it has become a ritual to arrange meetings with the Indian Diaspora. The best example is Bharat Darshan for the Indian Diaspora's visit to all the rich cultural heritage centres of India. It proves how much importance this government is giving to its Diaspora community.

Apart from reaching the Indian Diaspora, the Prime Minister Modi is also trying to showcase the rich cultural heritage of India to the foreign leaders visiting India. This is one kind of strategy to influence the Indian diaspora to remember their cultural roots and look towards India. For example, when Xi Jinping was invited by Modi to India in September 2014, Modi took him to the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmadabad. Xi Jinping paid his tribute to Gandhi and later Mr Modi showed him Gandhi's Charka. Another instance was in December 2015, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited India. Modi took him to Banaras, which is famous for many religious activities in India, and where Mr Modi and Mr Abe witnessed the famous Hindu religious ritual called the Ganga Aarti<sup>41</sup>. On 18 February 2018, the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani started his tour to India from Hyderabad, where he addressed Muslim clerics and visited many other historical places. He was received by the Indian Union Minister of state Power and renewable energy, RK Singh<sup>42</sup>. This shows how Indian government is trying to promote India's rich culture and heritage to its allies. The Indian government is also promoting Bollywood actors to become ambassadors of many renowned global institutions, for example, Priyanka Chopra is a goodwill ambassador of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

To reach out to the Indian Diaspora, the Indian government has scrapped the Overseas Indian Affairs Ministry and merged the same with the Ministry of External Affairs. The Modi government has also decided to give a single identity card to all the Indian Diaspora to make it easier for them to remain in touch with their homeland and secure lifelong Indian visas if they want to become Indian citizens. The Modi government has also allowed visitors who have Indian cultural roots from 43 countries to get visas upon arrival in India. Prime Minister Modi often stresses the three D's: democracy, demography and demand. However, he also focuses on another D in the list, which is Diaspora<sup>43</sup>. That has been reflected in Modi's foreign policy doctrine as the Indian Diaspora has received a great number of positions which are beneficial for them. The Minister of State in the ministries of overseas Indian affairs and external affairs General (Retd), VK Singh on 11 December, 2014, announced in Rajya Sabha that all NRI's who fulfil the eligible criteria of section 20A of the Representation of the people's act, 1950, have the right to enrol as overseas electors and cast their vote<sup>44</sup>.

### **Diaspora's Role in Indian Development Strategy**

Mr Modi knew that the speeches alone would not be enough to get the Diaspora's help for Indian development. The Indian PM has realised the importance of the Diaspora not only for India's internal development, but also for promoting India's image at the global level as well. The Indian Diaspora can be useful for their remittances, investment, lobbying for India, promoting Indian culture abroad and for building an image in foreign countries by their intelligence and industry<sup>45</sup>. It is said that in 2014 the Indian Diaspora transferred \$70.39 billion to their Indian families, which is more than the Chinese equivalent sent to their homes, which is around \$64.14 billion. Apart from that, private remittances sent from abroad to India account for around 3.5 per cent of India's GDP. In fact, the Indian Diaspora private remittances exceeded the average foreign direct investment that had come to India in 2015 and which is only US \$44.9 billion<sup>46</sup>. Moreover, the Indian diaspora can spend lavishly in India wherever they visit (unlike Indians), so this is one way economic activities in India can be simulated. Furthermore, India can ask the Indian Diaspora to donate for the trusts, NGOs and many other sectors.<sup>47</sup> Even the Indian Diaspora can adopt their villages and they can develop their own villages so that other people will also get the benefits of the Indian Diaspora directly. Through sci-

ence and technology also they can create employment opportunities for Indian youth in their villages or other parts of the country. India is going to face multitude of crises in the near future from the growing unemployed youth and elderly people. So, since the Diaspora has vast financial resources in their pockets they can invest in employment generation programmes and build senior shelter homes as a part of their philanthropy.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the Indian government's efforts to reach out the Indian Diaspora for looking towards India, the results seem to be not up to task. Therefore, Indian policy makers should design well-orchestrated policies to attract its Diaspora<sup>48</sup>. In fact, this is the time that Indian policy makers should think in a novel way to bring the Indian Diaspora's assets towards India considering the global scenario. The assets I refer to here are those in terms of their finance and knowledge. The Indian government should not leave any stone unturned in requesting the Indian Diaspora to invest in rural development-oriented projects in India. Thus, India makes a change in investing NRIs in India, a new foreign currency non-resident programme, where each individual can invest \$100000 by lowering the interest rates. If 25 per cent of the Diaspora invests in India, it will bring in \$4000 as remittances to India<sup>49</sup>. The Indian government has launched a few important projects to tap into their financial and knowledge resources, and the Diaspora can bring technical and domain expertise in domestic start-ups. The Diaspora Indian faculty abroad can voluntarily offer time and resources to the Indian faculty on Indian campuses to improve the quality of education. This can be advanced through government and private projects in the form of Made in India, Skill India, Digital India, and Start up India as well as many other projects which are aimed at improving Indian infrastructural development<sup>50</sup>. The former India's Lok Sabha speaker, Ms Sumitra Mahajan, while attending the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth from January 8 to 11, 2018, Seychelles, argued that the Indian Diaspora should take part and start investing in India in Made in India policy<sup>51</sup>. Since India has a large number of unemployed youths, they can expect good dividends from this sort of investment. Today's rural youth of India have knowledge and ideas, but they do not know how to use them. Sometimes this youth faces a lack of financial sup-

port as well. So if the Indian government could exhort the Indian diaspora to invest in this sort of sectors so that they will be able to contribute for the development of India and make India as one of the powerhouses of global politics.

It is in this context, considering the gloomy situation that is prevailing in global economy, that India should strategize its policies very diligently, taking the help of Indian Diaspora and designing novel policies to meet these challenges. This is because they are the primary sources for which Indian government can depend upon framing Indian policies according to the changing nature of global politics to remain as one of the fastest growing economy in the world. The Indian government also can make use of Indian Diaspora's scientific knowledge in the distressing agriculture sector. However, it is not only the responsibility of the Indian government, but also a moral duty of the Indian Diaspora in which way they can contribute to the development of India using their knowledge, economic status, political influence, cultural exposure and social advancement at the global level.

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