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Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visit to Sri Lanka and its Impacts on Indo-Sri Lankan Relations

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Abstract---In Globe, no nation is not an isolate it depends upon one another to fulfill their needs as a result of these multilateral relations build-up. Such a strong relationship we need to maintain means we need strong leadership. Such strong leaders are there before and after independence also. The several party leaders and their alliances are formed and implemented the policies for the development of India at the Internal level as well as external level. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government was formed under two prominent leaders known as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi. After Vajpayee, the NDA Government under the leadership of Narendra Modi realized the importance of foreign policy and maintaining a good relationship. Sri Lanka is also one of the closest neighboring countries; Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 to 2019 he officially visited Sri Lanka three times within these three visits he used to make several new initiatives in many fields.

Keywords---bilateral, multi-dimensional, multilateral, rehabilitation, trilateral.

Introduction

Narendra Modi is serving continuously as a Chief Minister of Gujarat for more than 12years, from 07th October 2009 to 22nd May 2014, during his period in Gujarat, He not only hard – sold "Gujarat Model of Development" but also got himself nominated as Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) PM candidate for 2014 Lok Sabha General Election, Narendra Modi emerged strongly influencing the national politics of India. Mesmerized by his dynamism, speeches, and poll promises, the voters gave him and his party overwhelming support to become Indian Prime Minister in two terms: the first term from 2014 to 2019 and the second term from

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2019 to date. Ever since assuming office, the Narendra Modi government's main motive is to develop all sections of people so they can live in peace and prosperity. He believes in the principle of 'Antyodaya', i.e., serving the last person in the queue. Through several innovative ideas and initiatives, his government is trying to ensure that India achieves fast socio-economic progress and gets a high place. Making governance open, easier and transparent is of his goals (Bubb & Rose-Ackerman, 2007; Bagwell & Staiger, 2004).

During his term, he used to give importance to International relations also and he use to make an official visit to the number of countries in the world and neighboring countries and he use to sign several agreements with other countries breaking for new grounds of India's economic development through increased flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India. Narendra Modi also requested each host country to participate in India's flagship schemes like Make in India, Skill India, and others. He urged the nations to cooperate in fighting terrorism, ensure a clean environment develop clean sources of energy, make judicious use of available resources, and share the use of technology for fast development. ("Narendra Modi - Premiership | Britannica" n.d.)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy

Ever since Narendra Modi took charge as India's 14th PM in May 2014, he was made foreign policy a center point of his administration. At first, he made the unconventional act of diplomacy. He has proved more than many had expected. Traveling regularly to across the globe, Modi has shaped the great foreign policy perhaps equal to Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, to blend Nehru's idealistic vision with realpolitik, Narasimha Rao, was adopted the policy to cope with the post-cold war, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee was made India was a nuclear weapons power country (Bezuglya et al., 2021; Arnawa et al., 2019). In its 2014 general election manifesto, BJP committed itself to guarantee that "a resurgent India" got its "legitimate place in the community of countries and global institutions". It explained a vision to essentially reshape the foreign policy goals, content, and process. According to PM Narendra Modi Government's record so far, it appears to be that the Prime Minister comprehends foreign policy well and appreciates being the nation and chief diplomat. Modi's external policies are five key elements,

- India is thought to be 'a leading power' other than a mere 'balancing power'.
- Diplomacy was deployed and to accelerate the nation's socio-economic transformation.
- Southside should have a 360° world view and making ability to influence the globe in the way of international relations and a balance of power favorable to India.
- While increasing defense capability and economic strength, India must also utilize its abundant soft power.

Following five elements, PM Narendra Modi has differed from his predecessors, especially former PM Manmohan Singh, since the basic foreign policy framework remains unchanged. But variations through re-prioritization are essentially five-fold:

- Prioritizing an integrated neighborhood "Neighbourhood First"
- Promoting international partnerships to promote India's internal development.
- Conforming a permanent and multipolar balance of power in the Indo-Pacific-"Act East".
- Controlling Pakistan from supporting terrorism.
- Improving Indian representation and leadership on matters of world governments.

Neighbourhood first policy

PM Narendra Modi Government's decision to host all South Asian heads of state (and Mauritius) to Modi's swearing-in ceremony was witnessed that the neighborhood is important in its foreign policy. The approach of "Neighbourhood First" of the PM Narendra Modi Government is to indicate four things.

- New Delhi's willingness to give importance to its immediate neighbors and the Indian Ocean island states.
- To give neighbors integration, to develop the form of resources, equipment, and training.
- Greater connectivity and integration are to develop the free flow of goods, people, and energy.
- To develop a model of India led regionalism, with the neighbors are comfortable.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's relationship with Sri Lanka

PM Narendra Modi was very much interested in maintaining the relationship with Sri Lanka The relationship between India and Sri Lanka Neighborhood First Policy and SAGAR Doctrine gives a special priority (Hayakawa, 2014; Desbordes & Vicard, 2009). From 2014 to 2019 Indian PM Narendra Modi officially visited Sri Lanka three times first times ("Prime Minister Visits" n.d.)

- First visit at 13th & 14th March 2015
- Second visit at 11th & 12th May 2017
- Third visit at 08th & 09th June 2019

During the visits, he made several initiatives in various fields like

- Infrastructure Development,
- Economic Development,
- Educational Development
- Railway Development
- Public Health.
- Public Welfare,
- Maritime and many other fields.

Important initiatives are done during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka

Table 1 Prime Minister visit

S.No	Category of the Initiative	Year	Name of the Initiative
1.	Infrastructure Development /	2015	Fresh Line of Credit
	Space Research		Construction of Rabindranath
			Tagore Memorial Auditorium
			Indian Housing Project
		2017	SAARC Satellite
		2019	Trilateral MoU
2.	Economy Development	2015	Commercial Economy
			Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
		2017	Currency Swap Agreement
3.	Air Connectivity	2015	Direct Flight Between Colombo
			to Varanasi
			Reconstruct KKS Port and
			Palaali International Airport
			Runway
			Authorization of Tourist
			Electronic Visa on Arrival
4.	Military and Maritime Security	2015	Reconstruct KKS Port and
			Palaali International Airport
			Runway
5.	Energy Sector	2015	Authorization of Tourist
			Electronic Visa on Arrival
			Constitute the Joint Taskforce
6.	Public Health / Public Welfare	2017	Sampur Power Project
			Trincomalee Upper Tank Farm
			Inauguration of Multi Speciality
			Hospital in Dickoya
		2019	Extension of 1990 Emergency
			Ambulance Service in other
			Provinces

Source: ("Prime Minister Visits" n.d.)

Impact of infrastructure development schemes

Under the Infrastructure development, India and Sri Lanka made several agreements viz.

- Indian Housing Project
- Fresh Line of Credit
- Establishment of Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium
- Reconstruction of KKS port and Palaali International Airport Runway
- SAARC Satellite
- Trilateral MoU for Colombo Port

- Constitute the Joint Task Force
- Sampur Thermal Power Project
- Triconamalee Upper Tank Farm
- Authorization of Tourist Electronic Visa on Arrival Electronic Travel Authorization"

India, Sri Lanka, and Japan signed an agreement for the development of the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port. This project cost around \$700 Million. Under this project Sri Lanka has fifty-one percent ownership and the other two countries have 49% Joint – Ventures. Indian PM Narendra Modi's announced in SAARC summit in November 2014 in Nepal. India's South Asian Satellite called GSAT – 9 is going give some crucial information like space technology for regional cooperation, Tele – Medicine, Tele – Education, Banking and Television broadcasting opportunities, Real-time weather for India and as well as SAARC nations the satellite launched on 5th May 2017, the total value is Rs.253 Crores. ("South Asia Satellite - Wikipedia" n.d.)

During 2015 Indian PM Narendra Modi's official visit to Sri Lanka, First, he signed the agreement known as Fresh Line on Credit. The total worth of the agreement is 318 Million US Dollars; the purpose of the agreement is to improve Sri Lanka's Southern and Northern railways and to buy rolling stocks of Railways. The fresh line credit facilities have been used to improve the southern and northern railways and for the obtainment of rolling stocks for the Sri Lankan Railways Sri Lanka's Ministry of Transport has said further developing passenger transportation facilities is urgently required to attract passengers towards costeffective railways. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announces India is going to give \$50 Million for the fight against terrorism in Sri Lanka and \$400 Million to Sri Lanka under the Line of Credit for fulfilling aspirations of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka, ways to develop security, for immediate growth of Sri Lanka and trade ties and address concerns of the fishermen. ("India Announces \$450 Million Line of Credit to Sri Lanka | India News - Times of India" n.d.) 17th March 2016 the MoU was signed between India and Sri Lanka for the Construction of Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium at the University of Ruhuna, Matara, and Southern Province of Sri Lanka (Jurgaitis, 2018; Mironchuk et al., 2021). The total area of the auditorium is 3000 sqm, and it will have the theatre facilities and also going to have 1500 seating capacity. The Rahuna University Memorial Auditorium was indicating the deep cultural links it is also hosting aesthetic, art, cultural festivals and events, international and national conventions, conferences, etc. It is very useful in rendering practical training activities and using postgraduation stages of research in the field of aesthetic art and culture for the students and academic staff of the University of Ruhuna. ("Construction of Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium at the University of Ruhuna, Matara in Southern Province," n.d.)

Three phases of the Indian Housing project were completed under the Congress government. The fourth phase was announced by Indian PM Narendra Modi on 12th May 2017 during the visit. Fourth phase India is going to construct 10,000 additional houses for the estate workers LKR 31 billion has been given by the government of India. ("Welcome to High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka" n.d.). Under the scheme, India is going to construct more than 50,000

houses for people from Northern Province, Eastern Province, Central, Uva Province, and Ceylon estate workers (Vamat & Madarulzaman, 2020; Dalal & Chahal, 2016). The important factor was funds are deposited directly into the beneficiaries' bank account in four installments the local technical officer representing the agency is tasked to support beneficiaries during development, reportedly to encourage beneficiaries to make steady progress. Community Development Programme for purchasing the hospital equipment for Vavuniya hospital, the engineering and architectural facilities to Jaffna University, and the livelihood project of Hambantota. In the International Vesak Day celebration being a special guest of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he announces that direct flight between Colombo to Varanasi is going to be initiated for the benefit of Tamil peoples of Sri Lanka will also be able to visit Varanasi, the land of Kashi Vishwanath temple. ("Air India to Operate Direct Flights between Varanasi and Colombo, Announces PM Modi in Sri Lanka "n.d.)

Impact of economic development schemes

Under the Infrastructure development both the countries made several agreements viz..,

- Currency Swap Agreement
- Commercial Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and many other initiatives for the creation of economic development.

July 2015 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka signed an agreement known as the Currency Swap Agreement; the swap arrangement's main motive is to give funding for the SAARC member countries to meet any balance of payments and liquidity crises. ("RBI, Sri Lankan Central Bank Agree on \$1.5-Bn Currency Swap Deal - The Hindu Business Line" n.d.) The Currency Swap Agreement in March 2015 under the existing Currency Swap Framework within the overall limit of USD 2 billion. The swap arrangements motive to provide a backstop line of funding for Sri Lanka to meet any balance of payments and liquidity crises till longer-term arrangements are made or if there is a need for short-term liquidity due to stressed market conditions (Iacovidou et al., 2017; Mirzaei-Paiaman et al., 2017). The proposal to extend the additional currency swap facility of USD 1.1 billion for a limited period was decided by the Union Government in April 2015 based on the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India for mitigating the possible currency volatility in the spirit of strengthening India's bilateral and economic relations with Sri Lanka. CEPA Agreement was signed for the main purpose of the agreement is to expand the free trade between India and Sri Lanka from the year of 2015 and CEPA agreement initiated the cooperation between both the nations customs specialties is the next step to that direction. It will improve trade and reduce non-tariff obstacles on two sides, ("India Pushes for Comprehensive Economic Partnership with Sri Lanka | Business Standard News" n.d.)

Impact of public health/public welfare development schemes

Under the Public Health development, India and Sri Lanka made several new initiatives viz..,

- Construct multi-specialty hospital in Dickoya
- Extension of 1990 Ambulance service

After the Indian Housing Project, the largest Indian assistance project known as the 1990 Ambulance service was inaugurated for the first time in 2016 in southern and western Provinces of Sri Lanka under the Indian grant of USD 7.56 Million. On 21st July 2018, the second phase of the 1990 Ambulance service was expanded for the other Seven provinces of Sri Lanka with an additional grant of USD 15.02 Million it is going to give an additional 209, Training costs and operational expenditure for a one-year duration (Bagwell & Staiger, 2005; Georgiadis, 2017). The emergency ambulance service, which can simply dial tollfree no '1990' from any network in Sri Lanka, is the biggest Indian grant project in Sri Lanka after the Indian Housing Project. India remains committed to further strengthening the bilateral partnership with Sri Lanka based on Sri Lanka's own choices and priorities. ("Welcome to High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka" n.d.) The Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (CEWET) was set up and India is going to give around 700 Scholarships annually to students studying in Sri Lanka and India. Under the public health sector firstly, in May 2017 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 150-bed multi Speciality hospital, it was built under Indian aid of Rs.50 core. The area where the hospital is located is home to a large number of Indian-origin Tamil tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka. India is to build a Multi - Speciality hospital in Dickoya (Cui et al., 2019; Rousseau & Yilmazkuday, 2009). Which is mainly going to take care of the medical needs of Plantation workers of Indian Originated Tamil people which they are working in tea plantation workers of Sri Lanka? ("Modi Inaugurates Multi-Specialty Hospital in Sri Lanka | Business Standard News" n.d.)

Conclusion

Being a close neighboring country we can share a common cultural heritage and maintaining close contact and maintaining a close contact have corresponded the strong as well as healthy relations with both the countries in the sense of economy, politics, diplomacy, and culture. From a regional perspective, both India and Sri Lanka participate in many summits in a regional perspective like SAARC summits, the South Asia Co-operative Environment program, South Asian Economic Union, and BIMSTEC all these organizations aim to maintain their regional stability. After the 2014 General elections, Narendra Modi became PM of India. After that Indian foreign policy became Modi's leadership style and Indian foreign Policy became reactive and proactive on India's response to international power transition, dilemma persists, about the neighborhood, Act East policy, and Neighbourhood First Policy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially visited Sri Lanka three times for the main purpose of Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Public Welfare, and many other fields of development like the 2015 Line of credit, in 2017 Indian Housing Project, Currency Swap Agreement, in 2019 Community development Programme, Trilateral MoU was signed. Overall the views of India's relationship with Sri Lanka have a new vision on leadership and a new vision on leadership on inclusive effort to promote greater understanding between both sides. They should attain dialogue in many fields like Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Public health, and many other fields.

Suggestion

- The Indian housing project scheme should be properly implemented in affected people of Sri Lanka
- To promote welfare schemes of economically down-trodden people in Sri Lanka.
- To construct and inaugurate the Multi Speciality hospital in various affected places in Sri Lanka.
- Spreading over Community Development Programme (CDP) in affected places of Sri Lanka.
- To strengthen defence forces to maintain Sri Lanka's boundaries.

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