Navigating Apropos Midst Kautilya's Mandala's Ploy and Contemporary India's International Relations Plays: An Analysis

Rana Danish Nisar [iD][1], Mehwish Kaleem[2], Ali Abbas [iD][3], Waqar Haider[4]

[1] Faculty, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sargodha, Pakistan.
[2] Ph.D. Scholar, Department of International Relations, Muslim Youth University, Pakistan.
[3] Faculty, Department of International Relations, Muslim Youth University, Pakistan. Email: ali.abbas@myu.edu.pk
[4] Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sargodha, Pakistan.

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The foremost objective of the study is to provide pragmatic in-depth analysis of India's contemporary offensive as well as hegemonic backed-strategies regarding dealing with neighbors by following kautliya "Arthashastra" wisdom which reciprocate is the main pillar of India's foreign policy since inception. The study examines the relationship between Kautilya's Mandala theory, a cornerstone of ancient Indian foreign policy expertise, and how it informs modern India's approaches to international relations. Kautilya's Mandala theory is presented in the "Arthashastra," which highlights the intricate interconnection of surrounding states by visualizing a circle of alliances and conflicts influencing a central authority. In India's current foreign policy endeavors, the Mandala concept remains vital. India's policy of 'Neighborhood First' towards its neighbors is a reflection of the Mandala's focus on fostering relationships with neighboring governments to uphold regional peace and safeguard national interests as well as aligns India's with multilateral forums, bilateral partnerships, and strategic alliances. The applicability of Kautilya's Mandala theory to the challenges and opportunities of India's current global engagement is thoroughly examined in this essay. It looks at how India strikes a balance between the ideals of the Mandala and the challenges of contemporary international relations, taking into account the varied players, interests, and shifting dynamics of the global scene? It also takes into account how India's objectives of strategic autonomy, regional dominance, and worldwide leadership are aided by this adaptability? This study is qualitative in nature and follows analytical, descriptive methods along with content and desk analysis.

Corresponding Author's Email: ali.abbas@myu.edu.pk

1.　　Introduction

The utilization of theory is of utmost importance in comprehending, examining, and elucidating the intricacies inherent in the realm of global politics within the field of international relations (IR). A comprehensive comprehension of international dynamics can be achieved by scholars, policymakers, and analysts through the examination of theories in the field of International Relations (IR). These theories offer frameworks, concepts, and perspectives that facilitate the analysis and interpretation of global phenomena(Spindler, 2013). Theoretical frameworks are offered as tools for comprehending and predicting world behavior and occurrences. The utilization of theories facilitates the comprehension of state motivations, conduct, and decision-making processes. Realist views underscore the significance of state-centric conduct and power politics, while liberal theories place emphasis on the concept of interdependence. Theories can forecast and explain events in the globe, assisting in the prediction and interpretation of global events. IR theories offer a variety of

perspectives and guiding concepts that can be used to affect foreign policy decisions. IR theories offer a variety of views and interpretations for examining global occurrences via various lenses. Because of this diversity, the field is improved, and comprehensive investigations of complicated global challenges are made possible. Policy decisions are influenced by theoretical frameworks because they provide a platform for anticipating and reacting to global events. The use of theoretical knowledge leads to more informed and efficient policymaking. Theories provide context for historical events and state interactions, allowing for a more complete understanding of earlier conflicts, alliances, and geopolitical movements. Theoretical debates and challenges to established paradigms drive IR innovation. New ideas or revisions emerge as technology develops, power structures shift, and global dynamics shift(MALINIAK, PETERSON, POWERS, & TIERNEY, 2020). Additionally, critical Philosophy plays a crucial role in the critique of International Relations (I.R.) as it offers a systematic and thorough analysis of empirical evidence, shedding light on issues, concerns, and significant perspectives(Lawson, 2015). It is observed that there was a comprehensive and unforeseen revolution in the characteristics of politics, both domestically and internationally(Baylis, Smith, & Owens, 2011).

The basic assumption of both self-serving "realpolitik" and political realism is that within a competitive society characterized by power dynamics and rivalries, governments will consistently priorities the safeguarding of their own material or national interests(Weber, 2021). Traditional or classical realism serves as a philosophical and scientific framework that examines the impact of changing global power dynamics on individuals and countries. It also offers novel concepts and approaches for addressing national security, international relations, and diplomacy. The government of India, under the leadership of Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, has adopted a pragmatic foreign policy strategy that places emphasis on enhancing India's security and international standing and India considers Doval as contemporary kautliya of India(I. Mishra, 2016). Modi consider Doval as replica of kautliya and calls him as run-of-the-mill officer(Kharb, 2014). The approach being discussed has resemblance to the underlying tenets of Mandala Realism, an ancient Indian political doctrine that emerged during the Maurya Empire and was championed by the esteemed scholar Kautilya, also known as "Chanakya", is a revered figure among proponents of the political realism ideology due to his significant contributions as a social scientist and politician. What is Kautilya's interpretation of the concept of "mandala"? What are the defining characteristics of the "Mandala" approach? What is Kautilya's foreign policy ploy? How one can relate India's international relations plays with kautliy's ploys? One can inquire about the relevance of this concept to India's growing international relations and regional ploys or its pursuit of modernizing its foreign policy from NAM to alignments.

Kautilya authored an extensive treatise known as "Arthasastra," which extensively explores the realms of foreign politics and political strategies. A fundamental principle of mandala posits that each nation-state is encompassed by neighboring states engaged in a competition for influence and power. Kautilya recommended conducting a thorough analysis of the capabilities and strategies of neighboring nations in order to discern allies and adversaries. Kautilya highlighted the importance of employing diplomatic measures, surveillance techniques, and information gathering in order to ascertain the objectives of regional powers and subsequently adjust strategic approaches. He proposed the establishment of efficient alliances among governmental entities in order to collectively tackle common challenges. Chanakya in his work elaborated on various topics including the qualities of an effective monarch, efficient governance, societal education, and religious matters(Rashid & Farooq, 2019). Chanakya, also known as Kautilya and Vishnugupta, played a significant role in the dethronement of the final monarch of the Nanda Dynasty and the subsequent establishment of Chandragupta Maurya as the Emperor of India, thereby laying the foundation for the Mauryan Empire(Subramanian, 1980). The individual in question belonged to the Brahmin caste and is estimated to have lived between around 350 and 275 B.C. The paucity of primary sources necessitates a reliance on tradition and subsequent Buddhist and Jain texts to supplement our comprehension of Chanakya's life. According to Tika Mahavasma, an individual affiliated with the Buddhist faith and engaged in manual labor, his place of birth is identified as Tashasila, also known as Taxila. Conversely, Hemachandra, an author associated with the Jain tradition, composed a literary piece entitled "Abhidhanachintamani." Subramanian posits that Chanakya's lineage can be traced back to the Dramila monarch of southern India, Chanaka. Chanakya's birthplace and upbringing took place at a town named after him, situated in the

Indian state of Punjab. Despite the existence of various proposed birthplaces for Chanakya, the consensus among historians is that Takshsila (Taxila) in Punjab is the most plausible candidate. This conclusion is primarily based on the fact that Alexander the Great's military expeditions were predominantly concentrated in Punjab, and Plutarch's account suggests that Alexander encountered Chandragupta, Chanakya's protégé, during their campaigns(Rashid & Farooq, 2019). Consequently, it is deemed more prudent to accept Takshsila as Chanakya's hometown, where he and Chandragupta shared a significant period of their lives. There is a consensus among scholars that Chanakya and Kautilya are synonymous. Chandragupta served as the sovereign ruler of the Mauryan Empire, which was alternatively referred to as the Indian Empire. He possessed significant influence as a counselor and played a pivotal role in the development of the nation.

The triumph of the kingdom over Alexander's formidable army can be attributed significantly to his conceptualizations and strategic approaches(Singh, 2016). Kautilya engaged in several scholarly activities, including the publication of his works, delivering lectures, strategic planning, and offering advice to the monarch(Rangarajan, 1987). The authorship of the fifteen-volume Arthashastra encompasses a diverse array of subjects, spanning from matters of jurisprudence and societal order to economic principles and political systems, as well as strategies pertaining to combat and diplomatic endeavors. This study on foreign policy mostly relies on the content presented in Volumes 7, 11, and 12(Rashid & Farooq, 2019). The foreign policy stance adopted by Prime Minister Modi and National Security Advisor Doval bears resemblance to Chandragupta-Kautilya's in some aspects. The primary objective is to strengthen relations with neighboring nations through the implementation of a "Neighborhood First" approach, which acknowledges the crucial role of robust regional links in ensuring India's security and regional stability(Roy, 2015). India has endeavored to keep neutral ties with significant global powers, like the United States, Russia, and China, with the aim of safeguarding its own national interests. According to Kautilya's idea of power balancing, it is proposed that more powerful entities should engage in cooperative efforts with their comparatively weaker counterparts(Trautmann, 2012). India is committed to establishing strategic alliances in order to further its own interests. The attainment of this objective heavily relies on the diplomatic endeavors undertaken by entities such as the Quad, comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia(Chan, 2020), as well as the establishment of bilateral alliances with nations in Africa and Southeast Asia(Bose, 2017). The objectives of this study is to assess the India's international relations plays through the use of the Mandala ploy, which was formulated by Kautilya.

2.   Discussion
2.1.   Navigating Kautilya's Mandala Ploy & it's apropos
The definition of "Arthasastra" as "the science of material politics" or "the science of politics" is unexpected(Boesche, 2003). Subsequently, the term "Artha" denotes the corpus of knowledge that elucidates the methods of acquiring and preserving riches, while "Shastra" pertains to the means of safeguarding said wealth and the sovereignty of the state. As to the findings of scholar P. Chandrasekeran, the text "Arthasastra" can be regarded as a comprehensive treatise on the principles and practices of governance and political science. In 300 B.C., Kautliya emerged as a prominent figure in ancient India(Modelski, 1964). Kautliya expounds upon the notion that a state might enhance its power and capabilities through the acquisition of material and economic knowledge, achieved by means of conquering adjacent states. In Kautliya's "Mandala," the term "monarch" pertains to a supreme ruler who exercises authority over a governed territory, serving as the emblematic representation of power and governance within an organized state. The author of Kautliya presents a compelling argument in favor of expanding the state, asserting that land constitutes the true wealth of a nation. According to the Kautliya argued that the most precious resources of a state are its political, economic military strengths and its neighborhood ties because we can't ignore or change neighbors and called this notion as science of wealth (Starzl & Dhir, 1986) for state. The individual placed significant stress on the predominant authority of the state, particularly with the aim of advancing expansionist tendencies and pursuing a foreign policy characterized by maximalist objectives. Upon the conclusion of his studies, Kautliya proceeded to categories his acquaintances, both friends and opponents, based on the psychological and geo-graphical attributes associated with the regions in which they resided. The author elucidates the interdependence among the states through the use of an analogy referred to as a "Mandala,"

which he envisions as a circular entity. Subsequently, he provides further elaboration on this notion. The term "mandala" derives from the Sanskrit language and denotes a geometric pattern that possesses a globular-shape. The concept of the "Mandala," denoting a system of twelve con-centric states, is elaborated upon extensively by Karad in Kautliya's work.

- ❖   Vijigishu
- ❖   Ari
- ❖   Mitra
- ❖   Ari-Mitra
- ❖   Mitra-Mitra
- ❖   Ari Mitra-Mitra
- ❖   Parshnigraha
- ❖   Akranda
- ❖   Parshnigrahasara
- ❖   Akrandsara
- ❖   Madhyama
- ❖   Udasina *(Patil, 2022)*

Subsequently, Kautliya employs a diverse array of notions to expound upon the aforementioned twelve circles. As per his assertion, Vijigishu is a highly ambitious leader with a global scope of influence. Kautliya regarded Ari as an inherently hostile neighbor due to the inseparable relationship between Ari's area and Vijigishu. According to Kautliya, Mitra's area is deemed more readily accessible compared to that of its natural adversary, Ari, leading to the former being regarded as an ally. As per Kaitliya's account, Arimitra surpasses his designated position as an ally by promptly aligning himself with individuals who are, in fact, adversaries of Vijigishu. Mitra-Mitra serves as an ally in the narratives of Kautliya, among other ways. Furthermore, he espouses allegiance to our adversary. The adversary's associate, Ari Mitra-Mitra, is positioned in close proximity to the entity referred to as "Mitra-Mitra." According to the writings of Kautilya, when Vijigishu assumes a forward position, Parshnigraha presents a formidable challenge(Ghosh, 2022). Conversely, when Vijigishu is positioned at the rear, it serves as an adversary's healer-capturer. The concept of Parshnigraha serves to obfuscate the understanding of Akranada. Vijigishu regards him as a companion. The Akranda faction benefits from the backing of Parshnigrahasara, a collaborator of the opposing party. As per Kautliya's account, the Parshnigrahasara is protected by Akranada's associate at Sakrantiya. It also serves as a complement to Vijigishu. The domain of Madhyama, ruled by the middle monarch, holds significant strength and poses a considerable threat, despite its close proximity to the kingdoms of Vijigishu and Ari.

According to the scholar Kautliya, Udasina is regarded as a formidable and autonomous nation that surpasses its neighboring states, namely Ari, Vijigishu, and Madhyama, in terms of strength and prominence(karad, 2015). Udasina, the preeminent and paramount nation, Vijigishu, aspiring to ascend to the throne, Ari, the incumbent adversary, and Madhyama, the neighboring regional hegemon that shares a border with Ari, constitute the four constituent countries comprising Kautliya. Kautliya's way of categorizing kingdoms into adversaries, allies, neutral and just governments, and friendly entities facilitates the integration of these many groups within the framework of the global order(S. Mishra, 2012). Understanding the categorization of states into five distinct groups - namely friendly, hostile, supporter, neutral, and powerhouse - as outlined by Kautliya has paramount importance in light of the aforementioned context. When examining nations with adversarial relationships, Kautliya classified them into two distinct types. The world is characterized by the coexistence of both nature and manufactured hazards. Kautliya categorizes his adversaries and his anger into two discrete classifications, one predicated on geo-graphical factors and the other on personal characteristics. According to the writings of Kautliya, states that engage in territorial expansion without the consent of the Vijigishu are referred to as "Ari". Kautliya argues, Arimitra and Ari Mitra-Mitra might be considered as natural rivals and friends of the enemy of Vijigishu(karad, 2015). As a result of this evolution, the current count has increased to three. Kautliya perceived Parshnigrah and Parshnigrahasara as prospective foes who would seek to assail or dismantle the Vijigishu during a period of territorial expansion or military campaign. The Kaultiya saw all other territories and states as hypothetical rivals. Vijigishu is faced with a total of five adversaries. Kautliya said that allied states can be classified into two distinct categories: natural allies and artificial allies(Khokar, 2018). According to Kautliya, Vijigishu's

inherent associates are identified as Mitra and Mitra-Mitra. Moreover, it is plausible that Akranda and Akrandsara may establish a bond of friendship, alliance, and guardianship with Vijigishu owing to their close geographical vicinity to Parshnigrah and Parshnigrahasara(Khokhar, 2019). This implies that Vijigishu has the ability to effectively neutralise its adversaries through collaborative efforts with its five allied nations or regions. Kautliya employs the notion of the Balance of Power, namely alliance formation, as a means to safeguard the national interests of Vijigishu(Shamasastry, 1915). This strategy involves the establishment of alliances and the deliberate isolation of possible adversaries. Kautliya encourages Vijigishu to engage in diplomatic negotiations with a neighboring regional power, specifically Ari, which possesses greater might and influence than Vijigishu, whenever Vijigishu finds itself interacting with a neutral regional state. The individual in question is credited with the introduction of the term "Madhyama" as a means of characterizing the present reality. Kautliya designates it as "Udasina," and from the standpoint of a superpower, it exists outside the sphere of influence. Among the three schools of thinking, namely Vijigishu, Ari, and Madhyama, "Udasina" is considered to be the most powerful(Khokhar, 2019). The following picture can teach the readers perfectly regarding understanding of "MANDALA CIRCLE".

Figure 1
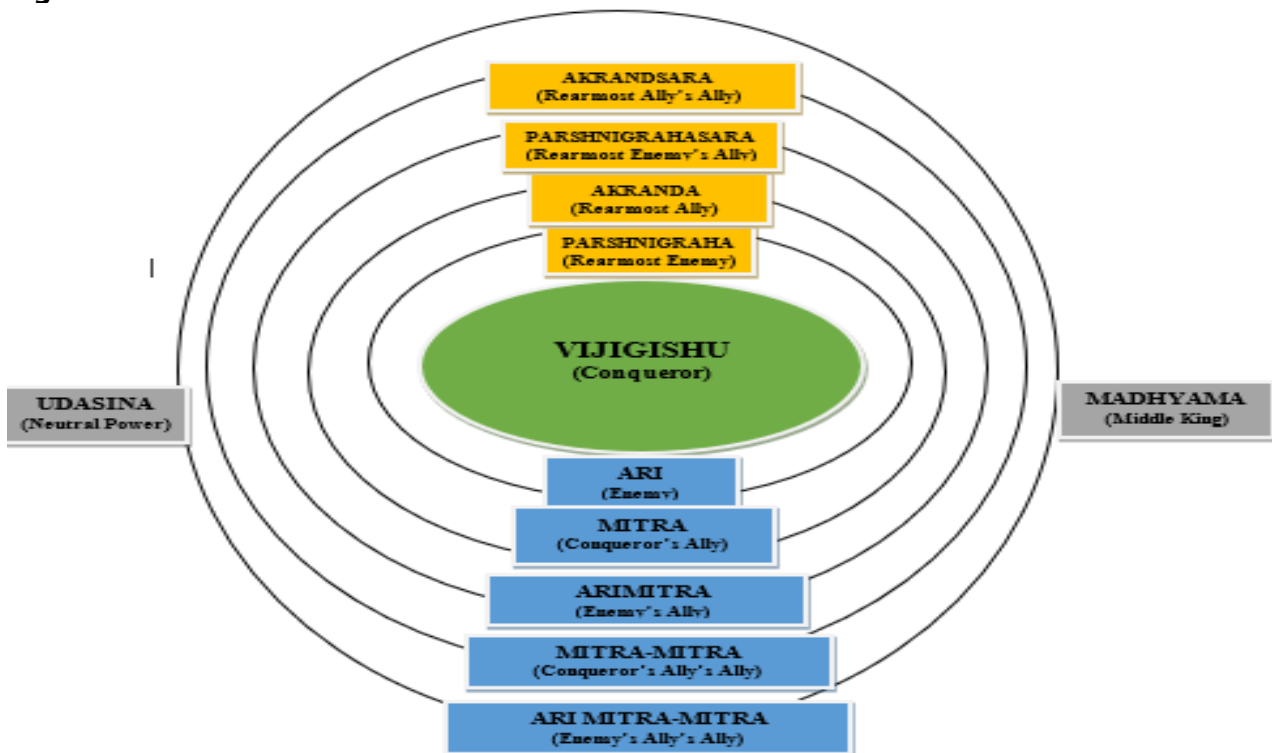
Source: Author(s)

Individuals inside one's social network may experience the consequences of changes in international relations, although those residing in close proximity may remain untouched. This observation implies that India places a higher emphasis on fostering relationships with its neighboring countries when participating in global diplomatic activities. Due to its active engagement in global affairs and its aspirations to attain a leading position on the global stage, India has consistently placed emphasis on strategic planning and proactive measures in its interactions with neighboring countries. The notion of "Arthaashastra," a term including hegemony, power maximization, military modernization, offensive power projection, aggressive use of force, and total annihilation of adversaries, is evident in contemporary India's approach to foreign policy(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022). Examining the geopolitical context of China and Pakistan in relation to the subject under consideration proves to be very advantageous. The perception of them as a possible threat to India's interests in both regional and international contexts remains persistent. Contemporary Indian foreign policy continues to draw inspiration from and recognize the relevance of Kautilya's mandala. According to Kautilya's mandala, India's geopolitical landscape comprises of both amicable and hostile neighboring states. Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal exemplify amicable nations on a certain side. In the realm of global politics, a consistent presence of enduring allies and adversaries is

an inherent reality. According to Kautilya's Mandal theory, Vigigishu, a figure characterized by eagerness, encountered a circumstance that bears resemblance to the contemporary challenges confronting India. China and Pakistan, which are considered significant rivals to India, exert a restraining influence on the country. India has enhanced its collaboration with countries such as the United States, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, and Singapore in the realm of military. Despite the influence exerted by China's economic assistance on smaller nations in South and Southeast Asia, India has employed a set of four strategies, known as Upayas, as outlined in the Arthashastra, to ameliorate the perceptions of these subordinate governments. Considerable effort has been dedicated to preserving Mitrata (Friendship) with conventional acquaintances alongside cultivating Ari Mitra (Friend of Enemy). India is commonly regarded as a strategic competitor to China in South Asian nations, serving as a balancing force. Due to economic, cultural, historical, and political factors, it can be argued that India has historically perceived lesser states as being encompassed within its sphere of influence, as indicated by Kautilya's mandala(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022).

According to the Mandala world view, China is perceived as an adversary, whereas the nations of South Asia are regarded as allies. The global community is well aware of India's endorsement of the US-led Indo-Pacific strategy. India's Indo-Pacific strategy is founded upon two fundamental pillars: the Act East policy and the establishment of a maritime Mandala. The objective of the maritime Mandala is to establish strategic partnerships in order to counteract China's Belt and Road Initiatives in the 21st century, sometimes referred to as the maritime Silk Road(Pant, 2019). As previously mentioned, India perceives Pakistan and China as perilous neighboring countries. The policies implemented by India have considerable implications for its neighboring countries of lesser size. It is an undeniable reality that India's involvement in the internal affairs of these nations, through activities such as proxy wars and backing of secessionist and separatist movements, is a matter that cannot be ignored. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Afghanistan and Iran, neighboring countries of Pakistan, have established strategic alliances with India. Despite the geographical proximity of China and Central Asia, India has been able to extend its sphere of influence in the region. It is advised to use caution when dealing with the Prince whose domain shares a border with one's own. Despite outward appearances of friendliness, this individual should not be fully trusted due to their consistent preparedness to counter any unforeseen aggression originating from that particular direction. The below table highlights purely Indian global and regional ploys aim to establish its hegemonic moves(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022).

Figure 2

SR. NO	COUNTRY	TYPE BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL	DEFENSE	NAVAL	PURPOSE
1	JAPAN	Both	Defense Co	Malaabr	Strategic Partnership Vision-2025
2	USA	Both	GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA, ISA, BECA	Malabar	Strategic Partnership
3	AUSTRALIA	Both	Security & Defense	Malabar	Strategic Partnership
4	IRAN	Bilateral	Defense Co	Naval Exercises	Geo-strategic Co
5	SRI LANKA	Bilateral	---	MILAN Naval	---
6	MALDIVES	Bilateral	Counter Terrorism	MILAN Naval	Security, defense co
7	ASEAN	Both	Peace & Stability	MILAN Naval	Strategic Partnership plan 2016-2020
8	BANGLADESH	Both	Maritime Co	MILAN Naval	Fair Partnership
9	KSA	Bilateral	Defense	---	Security & anti-terrorism
10	RUSSIA	Bilateral	Defense & Security	---	Strategic Partnership (Time-Tested)
11	FRANCE	Bilateral	Defense, security & Space Co	Maritime Co	Joint Space Co
12	UNITED KINGDOM	Bilateral	Defense & Security	Maritime Co	Strategic Partnership
13	ISRAEL	Bilateral	Defense	---	Strategic Partnership

Source: Author(s)

The Arthashastra describes two procedures employed by India to engage in negotiations with the Himalayan states, namely Adistasandhi, which refers to the cession of a portion of territory, and Sandhi, which pertains to the establishment of a treaty. India has

entered into peace agreements with Nepal and Bhutan as a strategic response to the rising influence of China in the region. India's prevailing foreign policy mostly centers on its diplomatic engagements with neighboring countries. The implementation of the Upayas, namely Sam, Dama, Danda, and Veda, has played a significant role in India's achievements within the South Asian region. In the year 2022, the Prime Minister of India embarked on a visit to Nepal, where he engaged in religious rituals at several sacred locations in order to cultivate a sense of reverence among the local populace. During the intervening period, India emerged as the primary nation to provide assistance subsequent to a catastrophic earthquake in Nepal that inflicted severe damage to the nation's economy. One potential designation for this phenomenon could be referred to as "Dama behavior." Nevertheless, it was Danda who instigated the economic blockade that transpired in 2015. The Madhesi community in India expresses their endorsement of Veda's strategy to leverage Nepal's internal policies for individual benefit, as a response to the prevailing influence of the Pahadi community in this domain. Bhutan is a diminutive nation that possesses territorial boundaries with both China and India(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022).

Due to its monarchical governance, Bhutan has consistently maintained amicable diplomatic ties with India. Nevertheless, the increasing geopolitical alignment between Bhutan and China became evident in the year 2013. In an attempt to exert influence over the outcome of Bhutan's presidential election, India orchestrated a simulated energy shortage. The aforementioned event led to a comprehensive disintegration of the governmental structure in Bhutan. India's "Danda" has devised a strategic approach to address the situation of Thimpu (Bhutan)(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022). Currently, India exhibits a preference for engaging in communication with the Sama and Dama of Bhutan, as opposed to the Danda, owing to the intricate dynamics characterizing their bilateral relationship. During the Doklam war, India assumed a defensive position near the borders of Bhutan with the objective of preventing any potential incursion by China. Apart from India and China, the region of South Asia encompasses the countries of the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The perception of China is undergoing a transformation inside each of these nations. New Delhi employs the strategy of diplomatic engagement as its major approach to fostering positive relations with these countries (Sama)(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022). During the recent period of financial instability in Sri Lanka, India implemented a strategic approach sometimes referred to as a "debt trap." As a consequence, India emerged as the initial nation to extend Sri Lanka a vital economic assistance package and a line of credit. India has lately been granted the privilege of expanding its operations in one of the industrial container ports in Colombo. Despite the increasing endorsement of an "India out" campaign in the Maldives, it is noteworthy that India continues to exert significant influence over Mahe. India is actively endeavoring to enhance its bilateral relations with the Maldives by undertaking initiatives in the domains of healthcare, education, urban development, and sports.

This strategic approach is aimed at mitigating the growing influence of China in the Maldives(Sethy & Ranjan, 2022). India's "Act east" policy has led to the establishment of diplomatic ties with ASEAN, Japan, and South Korea. In the year 1992, it established a partnership within the business community. In addition to its regular participation in the East Asian Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus, this nation has established a consistent presence in all three forums(De, 2018). Furthermore, a multitude of sectorial discussion bodies, totaling thirty, together with seven ministerial-level exchanges, have been established in addition to the yearly summits. Both Japan and South Korea play significant roles in India's Act East strategy, and they possess a same essential trait. The institutional frameworks, including the annual summit, strategic dialogue, and military dialogue, facilitate collaboration on several matters such as energy cooperation, counterterrorism, United Nations reform, cyber security, and maritime cooperation. In early September 2019, Rajnath Singh, embarked on a visit to South Korea with the purpose of engaging in discussions pertaining to military matters(Kesavan, 2020). The below picture highlights perfectly Currently India's foreign ploy with explanation of mandala & act-east as well.

Currently, there exists a bilateral trade relationship between India and the ASEAN, wherein an approximate sum of US$80 billion is exchanged annually in terms of commodities and services(Basrur & Kutty, 2022). During the fiscal year 2016-17, the value of the

aforementioned metric reached a historically low point of US$13.60 billion. However, in the subsequent fiscal year of 2017-18, it experienced an increase and reached US$15.71 billion(Kesavan, 2020).

Figure 3
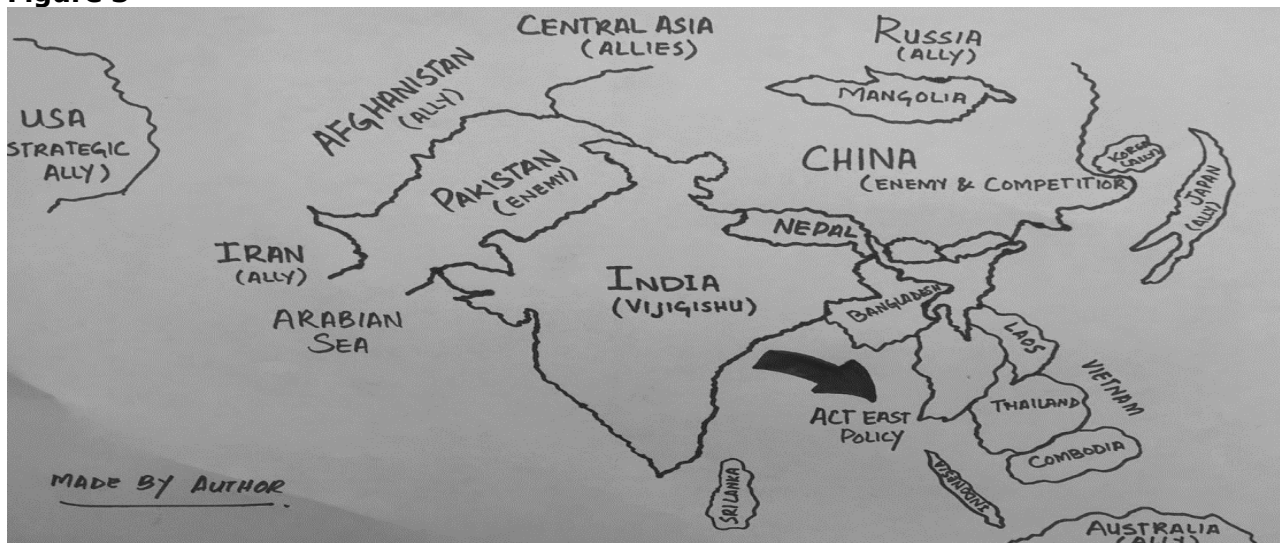
Source: Author(s)

The historical trajectories of South Korean and Japanese engagement in India exhibit stark dissimilarities. Narendra Modi has expressed a strong desire for Japan's financial assistance in funding a range of infrastructure development initiatives. The decision to import many cities and technological parks from Japan was made by Modi. As a reciprocal gesture, India obtained Prime Minister Abe's endorsement for its "Make-in-India," "Digital India," and "Skill India" projects(Verma, 2018). During the period spanning from April 2000 to December 2016, the cumulative amount of investment made by Japan in India amounted to $25.2 billion, constituting approximately 8% of the overall foreign direct investment received by India within the same timeframe. Similar patterns can be noticed in the business transactions between South Korea and India.

The bilateral commerce between the two countries had a significant increase, amounting to $20.5 billion in 2011, primarily attributed to the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2009(Kesavan, 2020). By the year 2030, it is anticipated that each government aspires to accumulate a sum of $50 billion. In the concluding months of 2018, the inflow of foreign direct investment from South Korea into India reached an unprecedented milestone, amounting to $5.71 billion(Kesavan, 2020). Undoubtedly, Modi exhibits a strong commitment towards augmenting the region's infrastructure, encompassing vital aspects such as the electrical grid, transportation networks, communication systems, and waterways. During the 2015 conference, Abe made a declaration regarding his plan to utilize Japanese Official Development Assistance funding for the purpose of financing activities aimed at enhancing connectivity in the Northeast Region. In 2017, the key leaders of Japan and India convened and reached a mutual consensus to establish the Act East Forum, serving as a framework for fostering bilateral collaboration. Since its establishment in December 2017, Japan's substantial official development aid loan to India has been utilized to finance infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and other adjacent nations, along with NH 40(Kesavan, 2020). The convergence of Japan's "Open and free Indo-Pacific strategy" and India's "Act East" policy, both countries display a strong desire to enhance their cooperation in order to expand their presence in the Indo-Pacific region(Keerthiraj & Sekiyama, 2023). In May 2016, Modi put up a proposal to incorporate Japan into the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor. A proposal is underway to construct an "Indo-Pacific region characterized by freedom and openness" (Shrivastava, 2023) by the interconnection of India with several nations in South and Southeast Asia using multiple maritime routes. The main aim of the proposed plan is to allocate resources towards the development of infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific area, with the intention of enhancing regional integration. These include initiatives in Rakhine state, Bangladesh, focused on road and bridge repair, as well as endeavors in Kenya, aimed at enhancing health services. Furthermore, joint endeavors in Myanmar are centered around the development of Rakhine state, with a

particular focus on LNG infrastructure. The enduring diplomatic relations between the two nations and the African continent serve as a valuable resource in furthering the objectives of the AAGC.

It would be erroneous to solely perceive the Asian-African Growth Corridor as a mere response to China's extensive Belt and Road Initiative at this juncture. It is imperative to comprehend the evolving dynamics of the relationships between China and Japan, and China and India, in addition to the distinct approaches used by India and Japan towards the BRI(Kesavan, 2020). Furthermore, it maintains strong diplomatic ties with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation member countries. India's regional policy can be succinctly encapsulated by the acronym SAGAR, denoting "Security and Growth for All in the Region(Schöttli, 2020)." Indeed, the term "Sagar" does hold the meaning of "ocean" in the Hindi language, thereby confirming the accuracy of your statement. The region holds numerous significant Indian interests. India is expressing apprehension regarding the prevailing military uncertainty in the region, primarily due to the diminishing dominance of the United States and the swift ascent of China(Hassan, 2019). India's Act East initiative additionally facilitates regional collaboration and integration through the implementation of initiatives aimed at boosting connectivity. The New Southern programme of South Korea and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific plan of Japan serve as complementary initiatives to India's Act East strategy(Horam, 2022). India's aspiration to establish stronger diplomatic relations with other countries and the burgeoning diplomatic ties between India and Hanoi are expected to result in an enhanced role for Vietnam in the implementation of the Republic of Korea's New Southern Policy. Their primary objective is to contribute to the development and enhancement of Afghanistan as well.

2.2. Navigating Kautilya's Foreign policy's ploy and it's apropos

As already mention above, Kautilya, an eminent political and military strategist hailing from ancient India around the approximate period of 300 BC, renowned for his notable literary opus "Arthashastra," encompassing subjects such as "Diplomacy," "Warfare," and "Logistics," the individual in question achieved considerable acclaim as a highly accomplished military tactician and diplomat. It is noteworthy that Indian political analysts, strategic think tanks, and diplomats persist in referencing the commendable work authored by Kautilya when endeavoring to engage in discussion with individuals in the region, despite the passage of time. During the reign of Chandragupta, Kautilya assumed the role of a monarch in India(R. D. Nisar, 2021). Indian strategic philosophy and culture have long been influenced by Kautliya's conquest plan, which is characterized by its emphasis on six primary needs.

❖ *Peace*
❖ *War*
❖ *Neutrality*
❖ *Marching*
❖ *Alliance*
❖ *Double Policy (PAIK & SAIKH, 2023)*

As per Kautilya's initial principle, "Peace," it is advised that a king or ruler should embrace the notion of peace and strive to attain a position of supremacy in this domain, particularly when confronted with the risk of decline, defeat, or deterioration in comparison to a formidable adversary. Based on scholarly investigation, subsequent to India's defeat in the Indo-China War of 1962 and its recognition of the futility of prevailing over China, the government embraced the tenet of peaceful coexistence(N. R. Danish, 2019). India has recently conveyed its intention to pursue a peaceful resolution with China in light of the ongoing armed conflict in the Galwan Valley(Areej, 2022). The leadership in India is cognizant of their precarious situation, as they have yet to initiate a comprehensive comparison between their annual defense spending and that of China. When considering defense expenditure, a stark disparity arises between China's approximate allocation of $270 billion and India's anticipated allocation of $62 billion(R. D. Nisar, 2021). In essence, China possesses a greater degree of power. Kautilya asserts that in the context of warfare, if the ruler or head of a state holds a superior and elevated position, it is imperative for them to engage in a ruthless conflict against their foes and adversaries. Numerous literary works have been dedicated to examining the India's extensive monitoring practices (ethnic conflict) that took place in Sri Lanka during

the 1980s(Khobragade, 2008), the contentious issue over the "kalapani" involving Nepal and India(Nayak, 2023), the border demarcation between Bhutan and the Maldives, as well as the aggressive incursion by India into Pakistan's western border, which resulted in a violent attack. India's strategic approach towards Pakistan encompasses many military engagements, including those in 1948, 1965, and 1971, as well as continuing and concluded surgical strikes. In the context of limited war against Pakistan, India has launched Land Warfare Doctrine-2018 (LWD-18)(Khattak, 2020).

These actions also reveal India's offensive ambitions. According to Kautilya, "undeclared war" was used against Pakistan by creating internal strife through the use of secret agents, religion, and other elements. In view of this, India is destabilizing Pakistan by supporting numerous insurgencies in tribal areas, particularly in Baluchistan. Kulbhushan Jadhav of the (RAW) is the best example of Indian undeclared warfare(Areej, 2022). A new division has been established within the Indian military, referred to as "Corps-II" or commonly known as the "Strike Corps," which has its central command situated in the city of Ambala. The assault group is commonly used by India during wars with Pakistan. In January 1987, India initiated a significant military mobilization in South Asia, marking it as the most extensive deployment in the region's history. This operation, known as the "Brasstacks" drills(Chari, Cheema, & Cohen, 2007), was conducted in close proximity to the border. As part of the Crop-II operations, naval and air force vessels initiated strategic maneuvers in the Arabian Sea with the objective of disrupting Pakistan's naval supply routes. India has been employing "coercive diplomacy" on Pakistan and Pakistan adopted a diplomatic strategy known as "Mirror Diplomacy" to protect its interests(D. Nisar, 2021). This approach involved responding to Indian aggressions with defensive actions that were as forceful and morally justified. This phenomena is also referred to as the "Action-Reaction" syndrome or the "Tit-for-Tat" idea. The concept of "neutrality," or "Folded Wisdom" by Kautilya, posits that when a ruler, head of state, or monarch perceives their adversary to possess comparable qualities and a certain degree of authority, they should adopt a stance of neutrality and refrain from inaction.

In spite of the formidable nuclear deterrent possessed by Pakistan, India refrained from escalating the confrontations that occurred during the periods of 1986-1988, 2001-2002, and the 2008 Mumbai incident. India, meanwhile, chose to adopt a position of neutrality. Moreover, India recently chose a path of 'Proactive Neutrality' on Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022(PAIK & SAIKH, 2023). India is very clever and follows kautliya's notion even during cold war and adopted NAM policy and remain neutral midst USA-USSR skirmish(N. R. Danish, 2019). As per Kautilya's doctrine, the fourth pivotal element in his strategic framework for conducting warfare and upholding tranquilly is the judicious application of "Marching." The underlying justification for this legal action is predicated on the notion that a ruler or monarch who attains a significant advantage over a competing entity should promptly initiate strategic preparations for engaging in armed conflict. India is currently engaged in aggressive efforts to implement the aforementioned plan. Since its introduction in 2004, the "(CSD) Doctrine" has prompted India to utilize its contiguous western border with Pakistan as a strategic platform for military training purposes(Gady, 2019). For the execution of CSD, India is using soil of Afghanistan against Pakistan(Areej, 2022). India and Pakistan have no rivals in the conventional war because of New Delhi's numerical supremacy, which puts it far ahead of Islamabad. But India is reluctant to confront Pakistan because of the mutual dread of calamity in the unconventional battle between Islamabad and New Delhi(ABBASI & NISAR, 2022). The next photograph illustrates the intricate details of India's military exercises near Pakistan border.

India is enhancing its strategic partnership with the USA which seems reciprocally enhance Indian offensive motives and china perceives its anti-china ploy(R. Danish, 2019). Even, on the cost of Pakistan's interests, USA seems okay to build strategic partnership with India(Abbasi, Abbas, & Nisar, 2021). Most recently, India has signed foundational defense agreements with the USA titled "(GSOMIA); (LSA); (CISMOA) and the (BECA)" which definitely increase security threat for smaller states of south Asia and particularly leave security dilemma for Pakistan(Danish, 2023). This includes various aspects such as logistics, strategic planning, technological advancements in weaponry, operational tactics, and marine divisions and personnel. The escalating military development in India can be interpreted as a
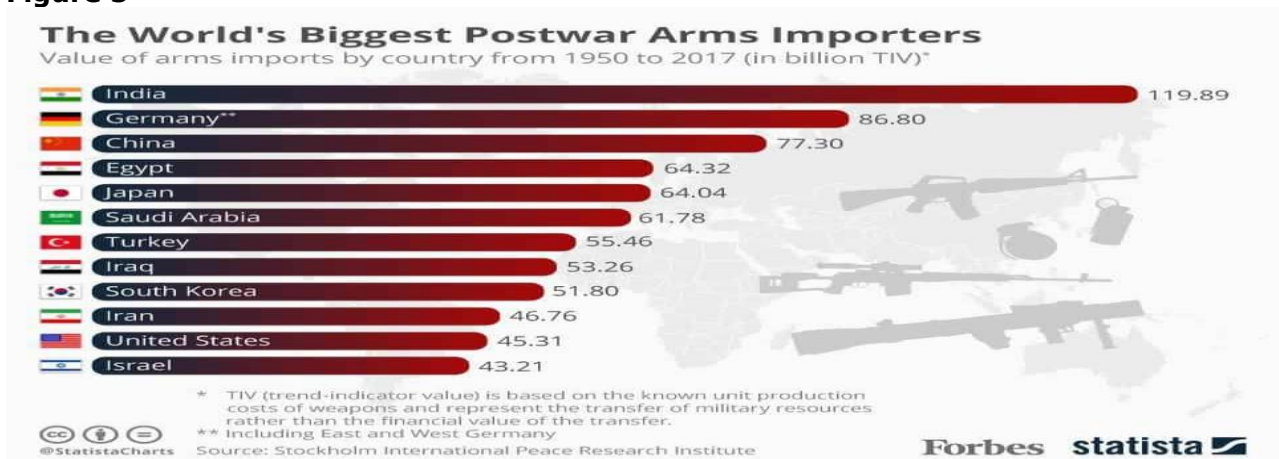
manifestation of a more assertive posture. India is biggest arms importer has highlighted in below picture.

Figure 4
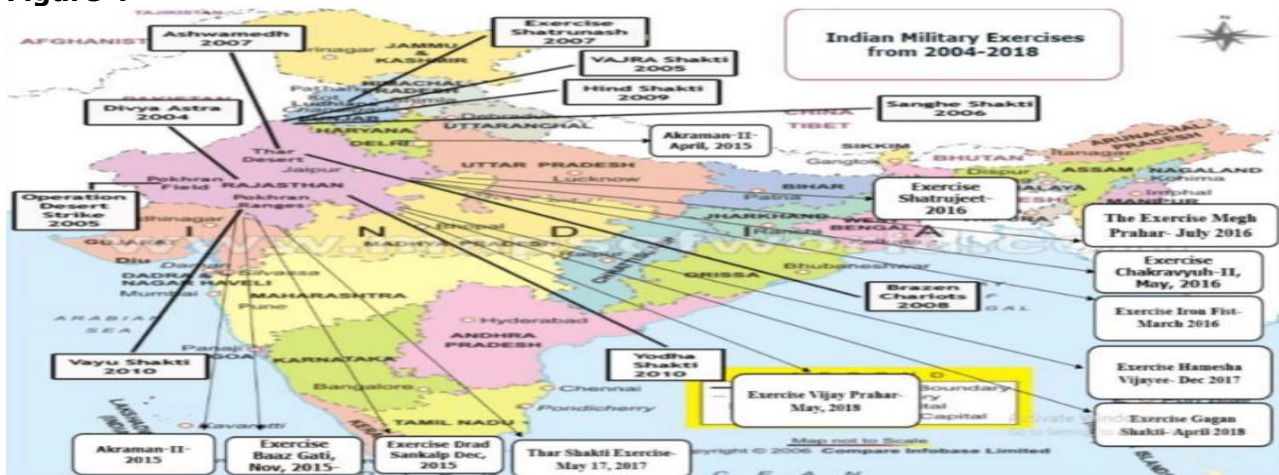
Source: Khattak,

Figure 5

Source: Forbes

The concept of "Alliances" is the sixth diverging idea that ensues. According to Kautilya, the king or ruler should solicit aid from many entities, particularly influential forces, as a means of fortifying their military preparedness and bolstering their political influence. The monarch also endeavors to establish alliances with influential nations in the region. India is not only a prominent advocate of this notion, but it is also actively engaged in enhancing its strategic alliances with other major global actors USA, Russia and Israel as well as its neighboring countries. India is establishing relationship with Iran because India viewed the Gwadar port in Pakistan, which China built and runs, as a counterbalance to the Chabahar port in Iran(ABBAS, ISMAIL, HUSSAIN, & NISAR, 2021). Additionally, India considers Gwadar port as the part of china's naval base in the context of "String of Pearl" (Upadhyaya, 2020)and in Indian eyes is a threat to its stakes in the region because India had an edge to offset Pakistan's naval power (RANA DANISH NISAR, HAIDER, & ABBAS, 2022) in wider Indian Ocean on the behalf of India-USA Strategic nexus and secure USA interests i.e. counter china (R.D. Nisar, 2020) and build up India's relationship with Iran and wider gulf by establishing potentate chabahar port. The historical history of the Malabar exercise series may be regarded as a barometer of altering geopolitics and India's growing Indo-Pacific integrated regional policy. The Malabar Coast's migration to the Bay of Bengal and rotation between the latter and the Western Pacific area implies a strategic convergence between India and the United States in the "Indo-Pacific" region. Later, this fusion extended to Japan, Singapore, and Australia(Kataria, 2020). The following picture shows Malabar naval exercises power ploy.

India derives significant benefits from the USA-backed "123" agreement, the decade-long military agreement, and its evolving security and defense relations with the United

States. The provision of advanced weaponry by the United States to India has engendered the perception that India has gained a strategic edge in conflicts. India routinely engages in the acquisition of new military equipment and maintains strong strategic alliances with the allies of the United States, most notably Israel. Russia has the ability to serve as a supplier of military equipment to India. In accordance with the sixth principle of "Double Policy," Kautliya posits that when engaging with proximate nations, it is advisable for the monarch or ruler to adopt a duplicitous approach.

Figure 6

Year	Country/Participation	Exercise areas	Platforms	Sea days
1992	India-USA	Off India's West Coast	Destroyers/ frigates	1 day
1995	India-USA	Persian Gulf	Indian warship and US SSN5 on the passage (UAE to Kuwait)	1 day
1996	India-USA	Off Kochi	7 ships (3 from each side and a US logistics ship)	2 days
2002	India-USA	Arabian Sea	2 destroyers/ frigates from each side	4 days
2003	India-USA	Off Kochi	6 ships, including US SSN & Indian diesel submarine, US P3C Orion aircraft	3 days
2004	India-USA	Off Goa	7 ships, including US SSN & Indian diesel submarine	8 days
2005	India-USA	Off Kochi	7 ships, including 2 carriers (Nimitz, Viraat), US SSN & Indian diesel submarine	8days
2006	India-USA	Off Goa	US SSN, Amphibious ships, US Marines, Indian Army Landing Forces	11 days
2007, April	India-USA	Philippine Sea	12 ships, including 3 carriers (Nimitz, Kitty Hawk, Viraat), Amphibious ships, US SS & P3C Orion aircraft	4 days
2007, September	India-USA-Japan-Australia-Singapore	Bay of Bengal	26 ships. US: 13, including 2 carriers & SSN. India: 8, including carriers. Australia: 2. Japan: 2. Singapore: 1	6 days
2010	India-USA	Off Goa	10 ships, including US SSN & Indian diesel sub. US P3C Orion	7 days
2011	India-USA	Off Okinawa	8 ships, including US SSN	5 days
2012	India-USA	Bay of Bengal	9 ships including US Carrier Battle Group	7 days
2013	India-USA	Off Visakhapatnam	No Carriers. 4 ships, including US P3C Orion & IN TU-142 aircraft	6 days
2014	India-USA-Japan	Off Nagasaki	8 ships including US Carrier, SSN & P3C Orion. Japan's P3C Orion & US-2 aircraft	6 days
2015	India-USA-Japan	Bay of Bengal	4 Indian Navy's fleets, Nimitz class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and Japan's JS Fuyuzuki	6 days
2016	India-USA-Japan	Philippine Sea	4 Indian naval fleets including INS Sahyadri and Satpura, USN 7th fleet, and Japan's JS Hyuga	4 days
b2017	India-USA-Japan	Bay of Bengal	INS Jyoti and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I, US Nimitz-class aircraft carrier and Japan's JS Sazanami & JS Izumo	8 days
2018	India-USA-Japan	Off the coast of Guam	5 surface warships from India, USS Ronald Regan, and Japan's 5 class destroyers	10 days
2019	India-USA-Japan	Off the coast of Japan	2 Indian Naval Ships, the Multipurpose Guided Missile Frigate Sahyadri, and ASW Corvette Kiltan. USS McCampbell and Japan's JS Kaga, JS Samidare and Choukai	9 days

Source: Project Statecraft

Specifically, one facet of this approach involves outwardly expressing a desire for peaceful relations, while simultaneously harboring offensive objectives or inclinations towards warfare. The dual nature of this method is demonstrated by the historical event of India's attainment of independence from China in the year 1962. Although the overall bilateral relations between India and China have been characterized by a good trajectory, it is noteworthy that these two nations have recently engaged in a military endeavor with a hostile disposition against Pakistan. Curiously, India exhibits opposition towards endeavors aimed at fostering peace within Pakistan. The existing sources of tension between the two nations encompass the water problem, the Kashmir war, the territorial disputes of Sir Creek, and the Siachen conflict. Currently, during the ongoing conflict in the Galwan Valley involving China. India's current objective is to resolve the ongoing military impasse, as it acknowledges the formidable challenge of prevailing over China. Nevertheless, India has initiated a proactive offensive campaign with the aim of destabilizing and perplexing Pakistan(Khokhar, 2019). Based on the aforementioned observations, it is contention that Indian strategic thinking, foreign policy ploy exhibit noticeable elements of Kaulaity's perspectives. Research has shown that pro-nationalist figures in India, like Pranab Mukherjee, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Shivshankar Menon, were influenced by Kautilya's teachings and also influenced by Kautilya's ideas are Indian periodicals dealing with politics and military affairs(Malik & Qayyum, 2022).

3. Conclusion

The Arthashastra, a summary of Kautilya's Mandala theory, presents a framework for statecraft and geopolitics based on power dynamics, strategic alliances, and links with adjacent states. Even if there are slight variances and complications, there is a substantial link when this idea is assessed in light of India's recent foreign policy decisions. India's foreign policy initiatives reflect a variety of Mandala-inspired elements. The theory's main concepts, which emphasize the relevance of neighboring states, strategic alignments, and managing regional dynamics, are consistent with India's current international operations. The "Act East" strategy and the "Neighborhood First" approach are two examples of how Kautilya's concepts have been pragmatically applied to meet contemporary geopolitical circumstances. India's pursuit of diverse partnerships aligns with Kautilya's emphasis on forging strategic ties. In the current global setting, the Mandala theory promotes the building of coalitions to offset hazards

and boost national interests. This approach is reflected in the Quad alliance, interactions with ASEAN countries, and strategic alliances with global powers. The Mandala theory's idea of link fluidity is congruent with India's diplomatic suppleness. India's approach to foreign relations, like the Mandala's dynamic alliances and alignments, frequently requires engaging with states across political spectrums and occasionally working with seemingly unlikely partners. However, adopting the Mandala theory in a completely different geopolitical situation is not without challenges. In addition to urgent regional challenges, modern international relations are intricate, incorporating global power dynamics, multilateral diplomacy, and non-state actors. In order to manage the greater global geopolitical scene and Mandala's regional concentration, India's international relations must strike a balance. The combination of modern Indian foreign policy and Kautilya's Mandala theory emphasizes the timeless importance of traditional wisdom in shaping diplomatic strategies. The theory's key ideas, such as regional dynamics, diplomatic maneuvering, and strategic alignments, are reflected in India's overseas contacts. However, changing global power dynamics, technological developments, and non-traditional dangers necessitate a sophisticated and adaptable strategy. India acknowledges the necessity to adapt to the modern world's complex and diverse challenges, while gaining inspiration from Kautilya's Mandala as it navigates the modern international arena. Finally, the analysis reveals the everlasting wisdom embedded in ancient theories such as Mandala, serving as a light of guidance for India in its search for a dynamic foreign policy framework.

References

ABBAS, A., ISMAIL, M., HUSSAIN, A., & NISAR, R. D. (2021). Tehran-Beijing Pact & Its Impact On Middle Eastern Wardrobe: (An Intuitive Anodyne-Exploration). *Webology, 18*(5), 3703-3715.

Abbasi, S. Y., Abbas, A., & Nisar, R. D. (2021). A Pitch is New-Fangled: Afghanistan & Regional Players Power-Ploy (A. *Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry (TOJQI)*, 6540-6548.

ABBASI, S. Y., & NISAR, R. D. (2022). Two Angry-Birds Of South Asia & Balance Of Power:. *Webology*, 3878-3890.

Areej, A. (Producer). (2022, November 26). The Foreign Policy of India: Mirroring the Strategies of Chanakya Kautilya. *paradigmshift*. Retrieved from https://www.paradigmshift.com.pk/chanakya-kautilya-india-policy/#google_vignette

Basrur, R., & Kutty, S. N. (2022). Modi's India and Japan: nested strategic partnerships. *International Politics, 59*, 67-89.

Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (2011). *The Globalization of world politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Boesche, R. (2003). Kautilya's Arthasastra on war and diplomacy in ancient India. *The journal of military history, 67*(1), 9-37. doi:https://doi.org/10.1353/jmh.2003.0006

Bose, S. (2017). India's Regional Trade Agreements With Southeast Asia. *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues, 21*(2), 140-155.

Chan, L.-H. (2020). Strategic Hedging: A "Third Way" for Australian Foreign Policy in the Indo-Pacific. *Asia Policy, 15*(3), 87-112.

Chari, P. R., Cheema, P. I., & Cohen, S. P. (2007). *Four Crises and a Peace Process: American Engagement in South Asia*. New york: Brookings Institution Press.

Danish. (2023). Assessing India - United States Security Agreements: A Critical Analysis. *Vestnik RUDN. International Relations, 23*(3), 536-546.

Danish, N. R. (2019). India-US Relations Through the Lens of Cold War: The Time of Estranged Relations (Brief Overview). *RUDN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 6*(4), 286-295.

Danish, R. (2019). CHINESE PERCEPTION OF INDO]US NEXUS: IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA IN SOUTH ASIAN REGION (Brief Overview). *RUDN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, 21*(2), 311-322.

De, P. (Producer). (2018, November 11). economictimes. *economictimes*. Retrieved from https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-commentary/shared-values-common-destiny-what-we-expect-from-the-16th-asean-india-summit/

Gady, F.-S. (Producer). (2019, January 29). Is the Indian Military Capable of Executing the Cold Start Doctrine? *The Diplomat*. Retrieved from https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/is-the-indian-military-capable-of-executing-the-cold-start-doctrine/

Ghosh, B. (Producer). (2022, October 17). Kautilya's Mandala Theory. *SSRN*. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4223665

Hassan, M. A. (2019). Growing China-India Competition in the Indian Ocean: Implications for Pakistan. *Strategic Studies, 39*(1), 77-89.

Horam, M. (2022). Contextualizing India's "Act East" Policy Within the Geopolitical Dynamics of the Asia-Pacific Region. *Indian Journal of Asian Affairs, 35*(1), 58-72.

karad, S. (2015). Perspectives of Kautilya's Foreign Policy: An ideal of state affairs. *Modern Research Studies, 2*(2).

Kataria, K. (Producer). (2020, December 10). India's Indo -Pacific Narrative: The Malabar Convergence. *projectstatecraft.org*. Retrieved from https://www.projectstatecraft.org/post/india-s-indo-pacific-narrative-the-malabar-convergence

Keerthiraj, & Sekiyama, T. (2023). The Rise of China and Evolving Defense Cooperation between India and Japan. *MDPI (Social Sciences), 12*(6), 1-14.

Kesavan, K. V. (Producer). (2020, February 14). Observer Research Foundation. *ORF*. Retrieved from http://20.244.136.131/expert-speak/indias-act-east-policy-and-regional-cooperation-61375#_edn6

Kharb, K. (Producer). (2014, June 2). Ajit Doval – the Chanakya in the Team. *indiandefencereview*. Retrieved from http://www.indiandefencereview.com/news/ajit-doval-the-chanakya-in-the-team/

Khattak, M. U. R. (2020). The Indian Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2018: A Critical Analysis. *IPRI JOURNAL, 20*(1), 105-134.

Khobragade, V. F. (2008). INDIAN APPROACH TOWARDS SRI LANKAN CONFLICTS. *The Indian Journal of Political Science, 69*(4), 911-917.

Khokar, A. (Producer). (2018, October 9). Kautilya's Influence on Indian Strategic Thought. *Policy East*. Retrieved from https://policyeast.com/kautilyas-influence-on-indian-strategic-thought/

Khokhar, A. (Producer). (2019, 5 19). strafasia. *strafasia*. Retrieved from https://strafasia.com/kautilyas-influence-on-indias-regional-domination-strategy/

Lawson, S. (2015). *Theories of international relations: Contending approaches to world politics*: John Wiley & Sons.

Malik, T. A., & Qayyum, S. (2022). INDIAN POLITICAL DOCTRINES: UNDERSTANDING INTERNAL SECURITY DYNAMICS OF INDIA IMPACTING PAKISTAN. *Margalla Papers*(1), 18-33.

MALINIAK, D., PETERSON, S., POWERS, R., & TIERNEY, M. J. (2020). *Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

Mishra, I. (Producer). (2016, October 1). Ajit Doval : Today's Chanakya of Indian Defence. *Linkedin*. Retrieved from https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ajit-doval-todays-chanakya-indian-defence-ishan-mishra/

Mishra, S. (2012). Kautilya's Mandala Theory. *Research J. Humanities and Social Sciences, 3*(1), 145-148.

Modelski, G. (1964). Kautilya: Foreign Policy and International System in the Ancient Hindu World. *The American Political Science Review, 58*(3), 549-560.

Nayak, S. (Producer). (2023, May 24). India and Nepal's Kalapani border dispute: An explainer. *Observer Research foundation*. Retrieved from http://20.244.136.131/research/india-and-nepals-kalapani-border-dispute-an-explainer-65354

Nisar, D. (Producer). (2021, February 24). Mirror Diplomacy: A New Concept in International Relations. *wgi.world*. Retrieved from https://www.wgi.world/mirror-diplomacy-a-new-concept-in-international-relations/

Nisar, R. D. (2020). US-India Nexus & Chinese Appraisal: Triangular Exertions in Central & East Asia (Brief Description). *RUDN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, 7*(2), 141-154.

Nisar, R. D. (Producer). (2021, February 26). Kautilya's Arthashastra and India's strategic culture nexus. *wgi.world*. Retrieved from https://www.wgi.world/kautilya-s-arthashastra-and-india-s-strategic-culture-nexus/

NISAR, R. D., HAIDER, W., & ABBAS, A. (2022). Locate Complex South Asia's Geo-Political Courtyard: (A Security Perspective). *Webology, 19*(2), 10015-10026.

PAIK, H., & SAIKH, S. (2023). Kautilya's Six-fold Policy and it's Reflection on Indian Foreign Policy. *Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR), 10*(5), 414-418.

Pant, H. V. (2019). *New Directions in Indias Foreign Policy: Theory and Praxis*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press.

Patil, J. (Producer). (2022, 4 25). brillopedia. *brillopedia.net*. Retrieved from https://www.brillopedia.net/post/kautilya-s-mandala-theory-and-its-relevance

Rangarajan, L. N. (1987). *Kautilya:The Arthashastra*. New Delhi: Penguin Books India.

Rashid, M., & Farooq, U. (2019). Chanakya Kautilya's philosophy and its influence on current Indian. 10.

Roy, P. (2015). DECODING INDIA'S'NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST' POLICY. *The Indian Journal of Political Science, 76*(4), 1024-1029.

Schöttli, J. (2020). "Security and growth for all in the Indian Ocean" – maritime governance and India's foreign policy. *India Review*, 568-581.

Sethy, S. C., & Ranjan, C. P. (2022). Foreign Policy in Kautilya's Arthashastra: A Critical Analysis of the Importance of Rajamandal theory in India's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT), 10*(5), 330-335.

Shamasastry, R. (1915). *Kautilya's Arthashastra*. Bangalore: Government Press.

Shrivastava, A. (Producer). (2023, June 16). US looks forward to hearing PM Modi address joint session of Congress, says Congressman Buddy Carter. *newsx*. Retrieved from https://www.newsx.com/buddy-carter-congressman-hosting-pm-modi/

Singh, B. (2016). India's Neighbourhood Policy: Geopolitical Fault Line of Its Nepal Policy in the Post-2015 Constitution. *Journal of International and Area Studies*, 59-75.

Spindler, M. (2013). *International relations: A self-study guide to theory*: Verlag Barbara Budrich.

Starzl, T. W., & Dhir, K. S. (1986). Strategic Planning 2300 Years Ago: The Strategy of Kautilya. *Management International Review, 26*(4), 70-77.

Subramanian, V. K. (1980). *Maxims of Chanakya : the crystallised wisdom of the Indian Machiavelli*. New Delhi: Abhinav Publications.

Trautmann, T. R. (2012). *Arthashastra: the science of wealth* Haryana: Penguin Books India.

Upadhyaya, S. (2020). *India's Maritime Strategy: Balancing Regional Ambitions and China*. New York: Routledge.

Verma, N. (2018). INITIATIVES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO BOOST UP INDIAN ECONOMY. *Journal of Management (JOM), 5*(4), 496-503.

Weber, C. (2021). *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*. London: Routledge.