YOJANA MAGAZINE ANALYSIS
(December 2024)
(Part 3/3)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

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- **VISION AND ROADMAP FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
- **REAPING INDIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND: STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR GROWTH**

PART 2/3

- **THE YEAR OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC EMERGENCE**
- **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN CLIMATE CHANGE: A SUSTAINABLE PATH FOR VIKSIT BHARAT@2047**

PART 3/3

- **ROADMAP FOR INDIA'S GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY**
- **INDIA'S MISSION TO FIGHT SICKLE CELL DISEASE**

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ROADMAP FOR INDIA'S GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

India is working on a **new plan** to strengthen its **role in global politics.**

This plan focuses on being **independent in decision-making**, **building peace in the region**, and **taking leadership in international efforts.**

Ahead is a breakdown of India's approach to this future role.

GLOBAL SITUATION & CHALLENGES

- **Problems with Multilateral Organizations:**

  Global organizations like the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** are struggling to keep up with the changing world. The UNSC has become **ineffective** in handling issues such as climate change, security, and global health due to the **veto power** held by certain countries.

- **Emerging Trends:**

  Because of the failure of traditional multilateralism, countries are forming **multiple alliances**, both through **bilateral** agreements (between two countries) and **mini-lateral**

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agreements (with smaller groups of countries). India is building relationships based on specific interests rather than relying on big international organizations.

- **Globalization 2.0:**

As traditional globalization faces challenges, countries like India are asserting their independence. India is working with other countries on **specific issues** such as technology and climate change, rather than relying on large-scale agreements.

INDIA'S CURRENT POSITION

- **UNSC Membership:**

India has **not yet received** a **permanent seat** on the **UN Security Council**, even though it is the world's largest democracy and contributes to peacekeeping around the globe. India's exclusion from this influential body remains a point of concern.

- **Economic Power:**

India is the **fastest-growing major economy** in the world, making it a trusted partner in global economic discussions. As one of the world's largest economies, India has a significant role in shaping global markets and trade.

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INDIA'S VISION FOR GROWTH

- **Inclusive Economic Growth:**

India aims for **growth that benefits everyone**. The goal is to reduce poverty, improve healthcare, and focus on issues like **gender equality** to ensure all citizens benefit from the country's economic success.

- **Defense and Security:**

India is working to improve its **defense capabilities** to protect its borders and maintain peace. Strengthening infrastructure in remote areas and securing the country's borders are key priorities.

- **Global Cooperation:**

India is focused on forming partnerships with other countries in areas like **technology**, **climate change**, and **global trade**. This will help India become a more productive and influential player in the world.

KEY POINTS OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

- **Civilizational Values:**

India emphasizes its cultural values and promotes peace and unity through initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **International Day of Yoga**, which highlight India's commitment to global well-being.

- **Neighbourhood First:**

India's **Neighbourhood First** policy focuses on improving relationships with neighboring countries by **building infrastructure** and offering support in various sectors to ensure regional stability and prosperity.

- **Leadership in G20:**

India's leadership in the **G20** highlighted its commitment to tackling global problems like economic recovery and climate change. India played a central role in pushing for sustainable development goals (SDGs) and helping global economies bounce back after the pandemic.

INDIA'S REGIONAL RELATIONS

- **China:**

Relations with **China** remain difficult due to border disputes. However, in 2024, both countries reached agreements to **restore normal patrols** along their shared border. They also resumed discussions on trade and technology cooperation.

- **Pakistan:**

India's relationship with **Pakistan** remains tense because of Pakistan's use of **terrorism**. India continues to stand firm with its policy of **zero tolerance for terrorism**, but also keeps diplomatic channels open for possible future talks.

- **Bangladesh:**

Relations with **Bangladesh** are mostly positive, but there are concerns about **minority rights** and **border security**. India continues to work with Bangladesh on resolving issues like **illegal migration** and regional stability.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & ACTIONS

- **Human-Centered Diplomacy:**

India, under **Prime Minister Modi**, has emphasized a **cooperative approach** to global challenges. Whether at the UN or G20, India focuses on working with other countries to solve major issues like **climate change**, **poverty**, and **global health**.

- **Rule-Based International System:**

India advocates for reforms in the **UN system** to make global governance more effective. Instead of creating new international systems, India believes the current global order can be improved to better reflect the realities of today's world.

FUTURE PATH

- **Strategic Autonomy:**

India's foreign policy will continue to stress the importance of **independence in decision-making**. India will balance its relations with the **US** while continuing to engage with **China** and **Russia** as necessary to protect its own interests.

- **Global Governance Reforms:**

India aims to push for **changes** in global institutions like the **UN** and the **World Trade Organization** to make them more **fair and reflective** of today's world order.

- **Engaging with the Global South:**

India is working to share its knowledge and best practices with other developing countries, especially in areas like **digital infrastructure**, **disaster management**, and **healthcare**. This will help India strengthen its ties with the **Global South** and improve global cooperation.

CONCLUSION

India's foreign policy is based on **practical and resilient solutions**. By working towards **regional stability**, advocating for **global reforms**, and taking a leadership role in major global forums, India is positioning itself as a key player in world politics. The country's vision of **peace**, **prosperity**, and **global harmony** will continue to guide its actions and make India a force for positive change on the international stage.

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INDIA'S MISSION TO FIGHT THE SICKLE CELL DISEASE

India has launched a **mission-mode approach** to fight **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**, aiming to reduce its impact, especially in tribal areas. Here's an overview of SCD and India's efforts to address it.

Normal Red Blood Cell   Sickle Cell

Sickle Cell Disease in India

- **Statistics**:

  o About **12 million** people in India are affected by SCD, particularly in **tribal areas**.

  o **1 in 86 tribal births** is affected by SCD.

- **Tribal Health**:

  o SCD is one of the **top 10 health challenges** for tribal populations in India, as reported by the Tribal Health Expert Committee.

WHAT IS SICKLE CELL DISEASE?

- **Definition**: SCD is a genetic condition where **red blood cells** become abnormally shaped, resembling a crescent or **sickle**.

- **Impact on Health**: The sickle-shaped cells are stiff and can block **blood vessels**, causing pain, organ damage, and other health issues. Normal red blood cells are flexible and live for about **120 days**, but sickle cells only last **30–40 days**.

- **Consequences**: SCD leads to **chronic anemia**, frequent **infections**, pain, swelling, and **damage to vital organs** like the **brain**, **lungs**, and **liver**.

TYPES OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE

- **Normal Hemoglobin**: Healthy hemoglobin, known as **Hemoglobin A (HbA)**, has two **alpha-globin** and two **beta-globin** units.

- **Sickle Cell Hemoglobin**: A genetic change causes **Hemoglobin S (HbS)**, leading to sickle cell disease. There are two major types:

  o **HbSS**: This is the most severe form of SCD, inherited from both parents.

  o **HbS-β-thalassemia**: This is also severe, caused by inheriting one sickle cell gene and one thalassemia gene.

- **Global Statistics**:

  - Around **400 million** people are carriers of sickle cell disease genes.

  - About **300,000** babies are born annually with severe hemoglobin disorders.

HOW IS IT INHERITED?

Genetic Inheritance:

- If both parents have SCD, **100%** chance the child will inherit the disease.

- If one parent has SCD and the other carries the trait, there's a **50%** chance the child

  will have the disease.

- If one parent is healthy and the other has SCD, all children will be carriers.

- If both parents carry the trait, there's a **25%** chance of the child having the disease,

  50% chance of being a carrier, and **25%** chance of being healthy.

SYMPTOMS OF SCD

- **Sickle Cell Trait**: People with the trait may show no symptoms and do not need

  treatment.

- **Sickle Cell Disease**:

  - **Painful episodes** like **acute chest syndrome** and joint pain.

o **Organ damage** from poor blood flow, affecting the spleen, kidneys, and heart.

o **Weakened immune system**, making people more prone to infections.

o Other symptoms: **fever**, **swelling**, **numbness**, and **severe pain**.

GLOBAL PREVALENCE

- **Global Data** (2000-2021):

  o The number of people with SCD grew by **41.4%**, reaching **7.7 million**.

  o The **death toll** rose by **20.8%**, with **34,000** deaths per year.

  o The highest mortality rate is among children under 5 years, especially in **sub-Saharan Africa** and **India**.

- **Geographical Distribution**:

  o SCD is most common in areas where **malaria** is common, such as in **Africa**, **South Asia**, and the **Middle East**.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- **Health Challenges**:

  o People with SCD need **lifelong treatment**, which can lead to emotional and psychological strain, such as **depression**.

  o **Routine medical care**, like blood transfusions and doctor visits, is required.

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- **Economic Burden**:

  o The cost of **treatments**, **hospitalizations**, and **screening** puts financial pressure on families.

  o Families face indirect costs like **job loss**, **lower income**, and **reduced productivity** due to sick members.

  o **Lack of healthcare infrastructure** in rural and tribal areas adds to these problems.

NATIONAL SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA ELIMINATION MISSION (NSCAEM)

Launch: The **NSCAEM** was launched in **2023** to tackle SCD on a large scale.

Key Features:

- **States Covered**: The mission focuses on 17 states with the highest prevalence of SCD, such as **Gujarat**, **Maharashtra**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Jharkhand**.

- **Target Group**: People aged **0-40 years**.

- **Strategic Actions**:

  o **Universal screening** to detect SCD early.

  o **Awareness programs** and **premarital counseling** to educate people.

- o Providing **holistic care** at all levels of healthcare (primary, secondary, and tertiary).

- **Integration with National Programs**:

  - o It is linked with existing programs like **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)** and **Anemia Mukta Bharat**.

  - o **Telemedicine** services under **Ayushman Bharat** are being used for consultations.

- **Technological Advances**:

  - o A **Sickle Cell Disease Portal** and **Dashboard** for real-time monitoring.

  - o The **ICMR** is validating tests that can be used on-site to diagnose SCD.

MANAGING SICKLE CELL CRISIS

- **Crisis**: A **sickle cell crisis** happens when sickle-shaped cells block blood vessels, causing intense pain.

- **Triggers**: Weather changes, dehydration, infections, or stress can trigger a crisis.

- **Management**:

  - o Common treatments include **hydroxyurea** and **prophylactic penicillin** to manage pain and prevent infections.

  - o **Blood transfusions** and **vaccines** help prevent complications.

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o **Day-care centers** help manage patients at early stages of crisis.

o **Financial support** is provided by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** for treatment in specialized hospitals.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- **ICMR-Zydus Collaboration**: A partnership for **clinical trials** of **Desidustat**, a new drug to treat SCD.

- **Awareness Campaigns**:

    o **World Sickle Cell Awareness Day** on **June 19**, 2024, will focus on educating the public about SCD.

    o **Nationwide screenings** are taking place to detect SCD, with over **600,000 people** being tested.

CONCLUSION

India's **mission-mode approach** to tackling Sickle Cell Disease shows its dedication to improving public health, especially among its **tribal populations**.

Through screening, awareness programs, and improved healthcare services, the **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission** aims to reduce the disease burden, offer better treatment options, and improve the quality of life for those affected.