

India'S Energy Diplomacy

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ABSTRACT

The International Energy Agency defines energy security as the uninterrupted availability of an energy source at an affordable price. Primarily, this idea moves around the three wheels of availability, affordability, and sustainability. Energy being the lifeline of any economy across the world demands robust energy diplomacy based on global cooperation, coordination, and consolidation; “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.” India has crafted a vigorous energy diplomacy founded on cooperation rather than competition; it is multifaceted, having bilateral, regional, and global dimensions. India's strategic energy partnership will not only contribute to its growth and development but will also give a stake to sustainable growth of the world economy. This energy diplomacy of India is rigidly moving across Mahatma Gandhi's view of “ONE EARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE.”

1. INTRODUCTION

Given its rapid economic expansion and rising energy demands, India has made energy diplomacy a key



component of its foreign strategy. The primary objective of the country's energy diplomacy is to encourage energy engagements with hydrocarbon-rich countries and reputable international energy organizations. Significant reliance on imports from the Persian Gulf region characterizes India's long-term energy scenario, which is extremely concerning for the country. India was forced to be creative and varied in its energy security policies because to the disruption of the oil supply chain caused by the COVID-19 epidemic. The long-term reliance of Asian nations on West Asian suppliers for energy security and the global shift in energy priorities towards Asia have created new chances for Asian nations to establish a role for themselves in advancing stability and security in West Asia. Even while India is making significant efforts to secure its energy needs both domestically and internationally, these policies are still in their infancy. The main obstacles facing our energy diplomacy are the sanction war, territorial issues, and international political unrest.

Background

When observing the literature review on "India's energy security," it appears that the results have not met the expectations of our energy requirement. About 5% of the world's oil and gas resources are distributed across the region of Central Asia, which is not yet explored by India only because of poor connectivity. Central Asia being a landlocked region requires soft and inclusive foreign policy for making oil trade possible. Another uncovered side is the security of West Asia, on which our present energy security is dependent. Once this role was played by the U.S.A., but now India and China have to replace this position. The United States, being the consumer until 2015, is now the world's biggest supplier of crude oil, with a global share of 14.7%.

2. KEY OBJECTIVES

- a) Securing regular energy supply via various ways.
- b) Diversification of energy supply.
- c) Setting up trans-national gas pipelines wherever feasible.
- d) To pursue long term LNG contracts.
- e) Promotion and Participation in regional and global producer- consumer summit for energy security.
- f) Promoting green or renewable energy for sustainable growth.
- g) Promoting foreign and domestic investment in downstream projects (Refineries and Petro-



chemicals).

- h) Building enough oil reservoirs to increase our conservation and efficiency capabilities.

3. KEY CHALLENGES

a) Political Challenge:

~Inability to draw in foreign capital for hydrocarbon development in the country.

~Coal mining is delayed due to environmental and regulatory clearance.

b) Accessibility Challenge:

~Approximately 500 million Indians rely on solid biomass for cooking, while 304 million lack access to electricity.

c) Economic Challenge:

~As a result of acquiring important energy supplies (oil and natural gas), the nation's import costs are increasing.

~The economy faces challenging conditions due to growing fuel subsidies and rising CAD.

4. METHODOLOGY & EXPERIMENT

A) *Diversifying Energy Supplies:*

India is the third largest oil importer in the world, importing 80% of its requirement, with the Persian Gulf contributing 55% of that total. India has extended its energy security to 39 countries while monitoring disruptions to the global oil supply chain and demand.

B) *Pipe: "Use pipeline to improve gas supply "*

By accumulating LNG, the expansion of the pipeline is important to extend the gas supply. Many projects are still in the planning stage, but only a small number is progressing at the construction stage.

Gas pipeline between Iran, Pakistan and India:

There is a solid commercial justification of gas delivery from Iran to Pakistan and India. Second, only the estimated Iran's gas reserves account for 18 % of the global gas reserves, exceeding 940 billion cubic feet. Geographically, the closest gas fields to the Indian subcontinent are located on the Persian Gulf



shelf.

~Turkiye-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAPI)-India Pipeline:

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) initiative was envisioned in the mid-1990s but was not initiated because of the Afghan civil conflict. Interest in the project was rekindled after the Karzai administration took office, with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assuming the role of lead development manager and consultant.

~Pipeline Connecting Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India:

Myanmar and Bangladesh possess significant natural gas reserves, and apart from India, there are other key energy importing nations in the area like Sri Lanka and Thailand. Collaboration in the shared development of natural gas infrastructure, which encompasses gas field development and the creation of a natural gas pipeline network along with LNG facilities, may result in a more cost-effective use of energy resources, advantageous for both producing and consuming nations.

c) *Vocal artistry:*

India established a forum for discussion among Asian consumer manufacturers, beginning with two round tables in 2005. The initial two laps resulted in a consensus on revamping the Asian oil market and the creation of Asian Gasgrid, linking Central and Western Asian producers to consumers in the South, North, and throughout Asia. India is actively involved in the discussions of the multilateral energy organization, the International Energy Forum (IEF), located in Riyadh.

D) *Learning Nation:*

Apart from focusing on the trinity of energy security, India is also keen to learn from global giants.

~India has approached China with a proposal to cooperate in developing clean coal-fired power plants.

~ In Japan and South Korea, we will increase the possibility of preservation and efficiency.

~To Norway to benefit from deep sea exploration technology.

E) *Not only a consumer, a producer and explorer too:*



Along with the 3rd largest consumer of world India has showed an equity participation in producing fields. India has now identified target areas for oil exploration and is ready to welcome foreign oil majors for exploration, production and construction of oil fields.

f) Move toward green energy:

India has begun an ambitious journey to explore renewable energy capabilities for 500 GW and 1TW by 2030. In May 2024, the installation ability of 191 GW, including the capacity of 85 GW.

~Current Status of RE:

- The share of renewable energy sources in the total installed capacity is 43.12%.
- India ranks 4th in the world in terms of renewable energy capacity (wind energy is 4th and solar photovoltaic energy is 5th).

5. MOVING FORWARD

Since energy is a global economic rescue circle, its continuous proposal is the main essence of our existence. As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The earth provides enough for every man’s need, but not his greed.” Contrary to this idea, the giants of the world are now consuming natural resources in an unsustainable manner, leading to the tragedy of climate change. Today, the problem of climate change is an obstacle for politicians around the world.

6. CONCLUSION

~ Promoting energy engagements with hydrocarbon-rich nations and well-known international energy organizations is the main goal of the nation's energy diplomacy. The global energy sector is undergoing significant changes, including increased electrification, the growth of renewable energy, disruptions in oil supply, and the globalization of natural gas markets. To handle these changes in the energy sector, India must increase its research and skill-building capabilities.

~ A variety of potential future scenarios for energy security are outlined by issues including carbon emissions, air pollution, and energy access. Policymakers in the energy sector should be guided by the dynamic situations predicted by INDIA ENERGY SECURITY situations, 2047 (IESS).

~ India must prioritize long-term planning in order to guarantee universal energy access and uphold its commitment to the Paris Agreement for sustainable and inclusive growth.



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