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Indian Vision of Global Peace

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Abstract

India's ancient civilizational ideals, spiritual traditions, and democratic ethos serve as the foundation for its goal of world peace. Under the tenets of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family—India advocates for a comprehensive, inclusive, and peaceful strategy for world peace. Historically impacted by religious leaders, other leaders, and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and the Ahimsa (non-violence) ideology. India promotes cooperation over rivalry, tolerance over fanaticism, and communication over confrontation. As demonstrated by its active participation in the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, and other international fora, India's foreign policy places a strong emphasis on strategic autonomy, multilateralism, and peaceful cohabitation. Additionally, India supports international humanitarian relief and peacekeeping missions, enhancing its reputation as a responsible global stakeholder. In addition to advocating for a multi-polar global order that upholds sovereignty and cultural diversity, India's vision for peace encompasses climate action, digital equity, and equitable development. Through development partnerships, spirituality, and diplomacy, India hopes to create a world society that is just, sustainable, and peaceful.

Keywords: Vision, Mission, Global Peace, Ahimsa, Non-Violence, One Family, Cooperation

Introduction

From the teachings of the Vedas and Upanishads to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, India has consistently promoted the idea that true peace comes from within and must be extended outward to create a just and compassionate world. India's vision of global peace is deeply rooted in its ancient philosophical traditions and cultural ethos, which emphasize harmony, non-violence, coexistence, and universal brotherhood. The Sanskrit phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—meaning "The world is one family." This idea reflects India's belief in inclusive and collective well-being that transcends borders, races, and religions. According to Indian philosophy, peace is a dynamic and comprehensive condition of justice, balance, and sustained development rather than just the absence of conflict. Based on its civilizational ideals, India's foreign policy favours collaboration over confrontation, multilateralism over unilateralism, and dialogue over conflict. In keeping with its larger commitment to world peace, it actively supports disarmament, takes part in UN peacekeeping deployments, and backs international initiatives to fight terrorism and climate change. Through spiritual knowledge, democratic ideals, and a dedication to equity and justice, India aims to be a voice of reason and stability in a world that is becoming more and more divided by the day. India hopes to significantly contribute to a prosperous and peaceful world order through this goal.

Research Methodology

The methodical technique used to investigate India's concept of world peace is outlined in the research methodology. With an emphasis on historical, philosophical, and policy-oriented analysis, this study uses qualitative and descriptive methodologies.

Objectives

The Objective of the study include the following:

1. To explore the philosophical and cultural foundations of India's vision of global peace, drawing from ancient scriptures such as the Vedas, Upanishads, and teachings of key spiritual figures like Buddha, Mahavira, and Gandhi.
2. To examine India's historical approach to peace and non-violence (Ahimsa) in both domestic and international contexts, including its role in anti-colonial movements and post-independence foreign policy.
3. To analyze India's contribution to global peace through its participation in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), United Nations peacekeeping missions, and international diplomacy.
4. To assess the influence of key Indian thinkers such as Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, and Jawaharlal Nehru on global peace initiatives and intercultural understanding.
5. To evaluate India's contemporary foreign policy with respect to peaceful coexistence, multilateralism, and conflict resolution in the 21st century.

Indian Vision Of Global Peace

The complex philosophical theory known as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which translates to "The world is one family" in Sanskrit, has its roots in ancient Indian philosophy, especially the Maha Upanishad. In addition to being profoundly moral and spiritual, this idea provides a framework for advancing world peace, harmony, and collaboration. It encourages a global perspective that cuts beyond boundaries, which makes it extremely pertinent in the divisive and war-torn world of today. It establishes the intellectual groundwork for long-lasting world peace by promoting the ideals of solidarity, tolerance, and shared responsibility. It promotes empathy, tolerance, and the welfare of all people by implying that we are all members of one big family. All people belong to the same global family, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or social level. Since we all share the moral obligation to treat people as if they were members of our own family, cultural, religious, and traditional differences are normal and should be accepted ^[1].

The Indian Constitution's Article 51 listed the guiding principles of India's policy which included advancing global peace and security, encouraging fair and respectable international relations, and supporting the use of arbitration to settle international disputes. India's historical ethos, strategic interests, and dedication to a fair and just international system serve as the foundation for its foreign policy toward advancing world peace. India continuously promotes diplomacy, multilateralism, and sustainable development as tools of peace, grounded in ideals like Non-Aligned Movement, peaceful coexistence, dialogue over conflict, and respect for sovereignty. India was a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which advocated for peaceful coexistence and abstained from forming alliances with any significant geopolitical bloc during the Cold War. India continues to engage with various power centers and uphold strategic autonomy while advocating for an international order based on rules. India firmly believes that the best way to settle international conflicts is via discussion and negotiation. It has mediated a number of crises, including the Korean War, tensions

between China and Sri Lanka, and the civil war in Sri Lanka. It also opposes the use of force unless it is necessary for self-defense or as a last resort permitted by international law. India is one of the countries that contributes the most troops to UN peacekeeping missions. In order to reflect modern global circumstances, it promotes reform of international institutions, especially the UN Security Council. India supports international non-proliferation efforts and advocates for universal nuclear disarmament, although it has not ratified the NPT or CTBT because of discriminatory clauses. In its nuclear policy, it maintains minimum credible deterrence and no-first-use. In international forums, India frequently brings up the subject of cross-border terrorism. It promotes improved international collaboration in the fight against terrorism finance and radicalization as well as a comprehensive international convention against terrorism. India's foreign policy aims to strike a balance between its obligations as a global participant and its national interests. India actively supports and upholds international peace via development, multilateral involvement, diplomacy, and moral leadership ^[2].

Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs in truth (Satya), universal brotherhood, and non-violence (Ahimsa) served as the foundation for his teachings on advancing world peace. His strategy, which sought harmony among people, communities, and nations, was not only political or national but also moral and spiritual. Gandhi thought that the most effective tool available to oppressed people was non-violence. He believed that Ahimsa included not just abstaining from physical violence but also refusing to harbor hatred or cause harm to others in any way. He maintained that only peaceful means, not force or conflict, could bring about enduring peace. Gandhi highlighted the need of honesty and truth in all facets of life. His strategy of nonviolent opposition was known as Satyagraha, which translates to "truth-force" or "soul-force." Satyagraha wasn't a passive movement. It was a strong, proactive dedication to using peaceful tactics to achieve justice and peace. Gandhi believed that peace was the presence of justice and truth rather than just the absence of conflict. Gandhi felt that all people are fundamentally equal and campaigned for the oneness of all religions. He encouraged interfaith cooperation, understanding, and communication while respecting all religions. His teachings promoted mutual respect and tolerance, which are essential for world peace. Gandhi's ideas are still a source of inspiration for organizations, leaders, and peace movements around the world, including Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. In a world plagued by inequity, violence, and fanaticism, his message is becoming more and more pertinent. According to Mahatma Gandhi's teachings, moral rectitude and non-violence are the foundations of true peace. He felt that fighting is fundamentally unfair and supported peaceful methods of resolving disputes, such as Satyagraha ^[3].

Particularly during and after the Cold War, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has been instrumental in advancing world peace. In order to offer an option between siding with the Eastern (Soviet) or Western (NATO) blocs, NAM was established during the Cold War. NAM nations decreased the likelihood of rising international tensions and superpower conflicts by remaining neutral. Regardless of political systems or ideologies, NAM advocates for peaceful cohabitation among states by advancing the values of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-intervention. The

movement is adamantly in favor of conventional armaments reduction and nuclear disarmament. NAM has continuously advocated for the implementation of international arms control accords and the creation of areas free of nuclear weapons. Particularly in the Global South, NAM nations have frequently served as mediators in international disputes. Through promoting neutrality, supporting disarmament, and prioritizing sovereignty and communication over conflict, the Non-Aligned Movement has made a substantial contribution to world peace. International relations are still influenced by its legacy, especially among emerging countries that aspire to a more peaceful and balanced global order.

Deeply ingrained in values that inherently advance world peace are the teachings of Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama). Even though the Buddha lived over 2,500 years ago, his lessons are still incredibly applicable today, particularly in light of the world's conflicts, social divisions, and environmental concerns. Do not injure any living thing by word, deed, or thinking. promotes disarmament, compassion for all living things, and nonviolent conflict resolution. It is the foundation of harmonious cohabitation. Buddhism fosters inner serenity, moral conduct, compassion, and awareness by first altering the individual. These attributes spread, fostering harmonious cultures, relationships, and eventually a more peaceful world ^[4].

The teachings of Jainism's 24th Tirthankara, Mahavira, provide significant guidance on how people and communities might promote world peace. His guiding principles of compassion, self-control, and non-violence are still very applicable in the war-torn globe of today. According to Mahavira, the greatest moral virtue is non-violence. Not only hurting someone physically, but also not hurting someone else by words, ideas, or deeds. Ahimsa promotes tolerance, respect for all life, and peaceful coexistence—values that are crucial for lowering global conflict and violence. The everlasting lessons of Mahavira can be used to build a society based on tolerance, peace, and respect for one another. People and nations can work toward a more peaceful and sustainable future by adopting non-violence, humility, and self-control ^[5].

Swami Vivekananda's teachings are extremely pertinent to advancing world peace. His ideology blends active compassion, international brotherhood, and spiritual insight—all of which are effective means of fostering world harmony. "We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true," Swami Vivekananda famously declared during the Parliament of Religions in 1893. He promoted respect for all cultures and religions and highlighted the importance of unity in diversity. Encouraging this mindset promotes understanding amongst people and lessens religious conflict. The teachings of Swami Vivekananda encourage religious harmony, respect for all people, peace education, selflessness, and human unification. Because of these values, Jesus is not just a spiritual symbol but also a timeless manual for fostering international peace ^[6].

Through his works, educational programmes, and international outreach, Indian poet, philosopher, and educationist Rabindranath Tagore—a Nobel Laureate—made a substantial contribution to the advancement of world peace. His teachings placed a strong emphasis on internationalism over nationality, spiritual oneness, universal humanism, and cross-cultural communication. Tagore thought that all people were one. In his ideal world, people

from all nations and cultures coexist peacefully. "The best education is one that brings our lives into harmony with everything around us, not just imparting knowledge." He advocated for the notion that human values are not limited by national or cultural borders. According to Tagore, love, empathy, and comprehension are instruments for overcoming divisions and settling disputes. The teachings of Rabindranath Tagore are a timeless appeal for world peace, spiritual enlightenment, and brotherhood among all people. Movements that pursue peace via education, empathy, and cultural awareness rather than via politics or power are still motivated by his life and work ^[7].

A well-known leader of the 20th century and India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru was a fervent supporter of world peace and international collaboration. His experiences with colonialism, the world wars, and the escalating Cold War tensions profoundly influenced his outlook. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), of which Nehru was a founding member, aimed to prevent newly independent countries from becoming embroiled in the Cold War conflict between the US and the USSR. His "Panchsheel"—the five tenets of peaceful coexistence—were adopted in 1954 in agreement with China. These include peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual benefit, non-aggression, respect for one another's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. Nehru was adamantly opposed to the arms race, especially the spread of nuclear weapons. He promoted global nuclear disarmament and supported UN efforts to halt nuclear testing and weapons development. Nehru's emphasis on negotiation, disarmament, and decolonization continues to shape India's foreign policy. His ideas are still relevant in today's campaigns to advance a cooperative, multi-polar, and peaceful global order. Originating from the Sino-Indian Agreement of 1954, these principles uphold non-aggression, equality, peaceful coexistence, respect for one another's sovereignty, and non-interference in domestic affairs ^[8].

During her tenure as India's first and only female prime minister (1966–1977 and 1980–1984), Indira Gandhi frequently discussed world peace in relation to non-alignment, disarmament, and fairness for developing countries. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which aimed to keep recently independent countries out of the Cold War struggle, had Indira Gandhi as a fervent supporter. According to her, "non-alignment is a positive, constructive policy aimed at peace and cooperation; it is not a policy of neutrality." Indira Gandhi was always against the arms race and in favor of nuclear disarmament. She stated in a speech at the NAM meeting in New Delhi in 1983 that "nuclear weapons cannot provide true security, nor can force bring about peace." Despite the fact that India carried out a non-combative nuclear blast Under her leadership in 1974, she insisted that India's goals were defensive and meant to protect sovereignty rather than intensify hostilities. Indira Gandhi backed liberation and anti-colonial movements, especially in Asia and Africa. She believed that the fight for national self-determination was in line with the objectives of world peace and dignity. India has taken an active position in a number of international forums, highlighting the necessity of a multilateral system that is updated to reflect modern world conditions. It has participated in peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions and had several stints on the UN Security Council ^[9].

During his time as India's sixth Prime Minister (1984–1989),

Rajiv Gandhi made significant contributions to the advancement of world peace. He made important moves on the international scene to promote disarmament, non-alignment, and peaceful collaboration, even if his leadership was characterized by a number of domestic difficulties. A strong advocate of nuclear disarmament was Rajiv Gandhi. He addressed the UN General Assembly in 1988 with a thorough Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World Order. This plan stressed the strategic and moral need for a society free of nuclear dangers and aimed for the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons by 2010. Rajiv Gandhi, the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), maintained India's stance against allying with any important Cold War power alliance. He emphasized the value of South-South cooperation, respect for sovereignty, and peaceful coexistence. Through his support of nuclear disarmament at the UN, dedication to non-alignment and international collaboration, regional peacekeeping efforts, and fostering closer relations between poorer countries, Rajiv Gandhi advanced world peace^[10].

Former Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is well known for his diplomatic style, calm manner, and emphasis on amicable foreign ties. His policies and public remarks have continuously pushed for international peace and collaboration, even though he may not be widely recognized as a peace activist in the conventional sense. Throughout his tenure as prime minister from 2004 to 2014, Manmohan Singh promoted dialogue over war and strengthened ties with China and Pakistan in particular. In 2008, under his direction, the United States and India signed the Civil Nuclear Agreement, strengthening their strategic alliance and emphasizing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes^[11].

Following four days of fierce cross-border battle, India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire, according to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2025. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. Vice President Vance, and other officials from both countries engaged in diplomatic efforts prior to this breakthrough. It was crucial that Prime Minister Modi took part in these talks. A major step toward regional stability, the ceasefire was praised^[12]. Modi has underlined the value of religious harmony and tolerance. For his efforts to empower Indian-American minorities, Modi received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award in Washington, D.C., in 2024. His dedication to advancing inclusivity and peace on the international scene is demonstrated by this honor^[13]. "Buddha's teachings offer solutions to global problems," Modi stressed at the 2023 world Buddhist Summit in New Delhi. He promoted harmony, compassion, and peace, and he matched India's diplomatic strategy with these ideals^[14]. Modi has been steadfast in his opposition to terrorism while simultaneously promoting peace. He underlined in a recent speech that terrorism and peace cannot coexist and that India will not accept nuclear blackmail. He reaffirmed that the only topics of discussion in any future discussions with Pakistan would be terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)^[15]. Prime Minister Modi has continuously sought to promote world peace through these programs, striking a balance between diplomatic engagement and a resolute dedication to religious harmony and national security. This proclamation, which supports sustainable development, a rules-based international order, and increased participation of the Global South in global governance, was endorsed by India^[16]. India's stance on international disputes, like the crisis

between Russia and Ukraine, demonstrates its dedication to neutrality and communication. India has highlighted the need for a peaceful resolution and has refrained from taking sides in international condemnations, preferring to promote communication and understanding while preserving close defense relations with Russia^[17].

Conclusion

India's historic cultural, intellectual, and spiritual history is fundamental to its vision of world peace. As espoused by individuals such as Mahatma Gandhi, the nation promotes a global order founded on the values of non-violence (Ahimsa), tolerance, communication, and coexistence. India highlights that fostering social justice, economic equity, and respect for one another among nations is just as important to achieving true peace as the absence of conflict. India maintains a multilateral and collaborative approach to international issues including nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and climate change in contemporary diplomacy. Using platforms such as the United Nations, India continues to advocate for inclusive development, respect for sovereignty, and a balanced system of global governance through the Non-Aligned Movement, the G20, and other organizations. India therefore aspires to a world order that is peaceful, in which diversity is valued, communication is favored over conflict, and progress coexists with respect and peace. This vision is a moral commitment to creating a world founded on common values and advancement rather than merely a strategic position.

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