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# India's Energy Security and Foreign Policy: A Strategic Priority

*Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan\**

*The extensive debate on energy resources that has taken place on a global scale over the past several years points to the escalation of competing positions between various states and how this has affected how the entire system of international relations has changed. It has been evident for a while that this subject is closely related to political security concerns. Given its importance, it ranks right after defence on the list of national security priorities. An survey of the literatures clearly demonstrates the unease among nations regarding energy security, and a study of the research conducted over the years offers a glimpse of the many energy security measures used by various nations to protect both their energy sources and supply. Energy security requires long-term, strategic planning and policy measures involving fundamental elements of a country's national economy, foreign policy, and overall national security because it involves the production, consumption, and import of fuels for all times at an affordable cost without disrupting the supply chain. India, a nation with a severe energy shortage, has a sizable population of over 1.32 billion people and a quickly expanding economy that is rated third in the world in terms of PPP and eighth largest industrial economy. India's energy consumption is constantly rising. India's capacity for power production and transmission has come under growing strain as a result of this ongoing intensification. India is the world's third-largest energy and oil consumer as of 2020, as well as its sixth- and seventh-largest power and oil producers. India is anticipated to exceed all other nations in consumption by 2030 at this rate. Unfortunately, coal, which makes up 70% of India's energy system, dominates. The remaining 30% comes from oil, more than 65% of which is imported. India has been obliged to hunt for equity oil and energy to meet its expanding needs due to the inefficiency and inadequacy of local energy supplies. Since then, India has worked to*

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\* Professor of Political Science in the Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.



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# The Magnetic Lodestone of the Konark Temple:

## An Architectural Marvel or Engineering Grandeur!

**Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Jeenapriyanka Jethi**

The rich culture of Odisha is based on the religious faith of common people and to support that aesthetic ideology, the temple architecture reaches the pinnacle of edifying values to human civilisation. Architecture is not just about creating functional buildings; it's also an art form that reflects the culture, values, and aspirations of a society. To be honest, architecture varies greatly across different cultures and regions. Each civilization has developed its own unique architectural styles, building techniques, design philosophies, reflecting its history, beliefs,

environment and importantly its knowledge

Temples in India are not just places of worship rather a telling saga of India's rich cultural heritage, scientific and architectural marvel. The Sun temple at Konark is one such engineering marvel located on the bank of river Chandrabhaga facing the endless Bay of Bengal within few metres was constructed during the reign of Narasinghadeva – I of eastern Ganga dynasty in 13<sup>th</sup> century AD. Also called Black Pagoda of Odisha, this temple is dedicated to Lord Sun. Shaped like a giant chariot, the temple is known for its exquisite stone carvings that cover the entire structure with a an architectural set up of magnets. A first of its kind in India, the Sun temple known for its majestic mysteries has been a subject of scientific inquiry for the magnetic lodestone installed on the top of the temple that could pull the ships and boats towards the shores causing malfunction in their navigation system. It is in this premise; this article has been designed to study the magnetic lodestone of Sun temple at Konark in Odisha shrewd in mysteries for its architectural design and scientific splendours.

system. From the pyramids of Egypt to the temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, these structures showcase the diversity and ingenuity of human architectural achievements. Human civilization has continually advanced in terms of architectural technology. Innovations such as the use of stone, concrete, steel, glass, and marble have revolutionized the possibilities for creating structures that were previously unimaginable. As evident from historical

records and documentations, across the world,

**Prof. R. K. Pradhan**

Professor, Political Science, Department of Political Science, School of Social Science, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (A Central University), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh,

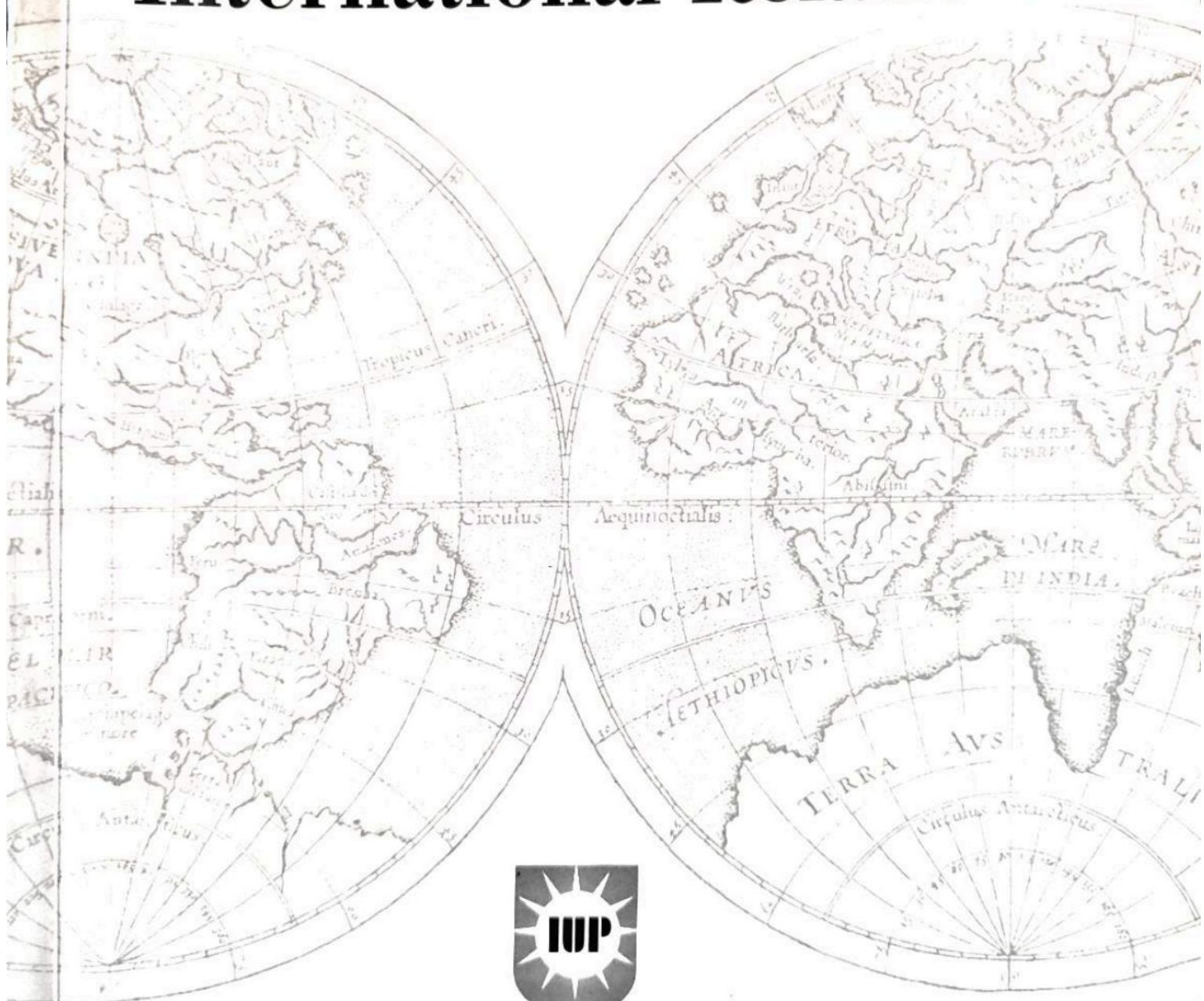
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Assistant Professor, Department of History and Archaeology at Fakir Mohan University, Vyasa Vihar, Balasore, Odisha

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# Lebensraum Revisited: A Study of Chinese and Russian Strategies for Territorial Expansion

Ramakrushna Pradhan\*, Udaya Kumar Giri\*\*  
and Sabavath Ravi\*\*\*

The paper revisits the Lebensraum concept and examines its role in world politics, with reference to the Chinese and Russian strategies towards Taiwan and Ukraine, respectively, to achieve their geopolitical goals, thereby drawing a parallel between Adolf Hitler's strategic ideas and those of Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The paper analyzes Lebensraum, both conceptually and theoretically, to examine how it influences the territorial annexation strategy of a country.

## Introduction

The 21<sup>st</sup> century international relations center on the argument whether the importance of territory to a nation is a decisive factor in acknowledging the power of a nation or not. The pro-globalization scholars argued that with the coming of the notion of "borderless globe", the economy became a decisive factor in identifying the power of a nation. On the other hand, the critics of the notion of a borderless globe, and other schools of thought argued that even if economics became a prominent aspect of identifying the power of a nation, still territory remains one of the five elements to define a State as a nation-state. Based on this premise, this study highlights the importance of territory for a nation and how territorial annexation becomes an asset for a nation to multiply its powers by taking into account the notion of Lebensraum, which means 'space consciousness' and by applying the Lebensraum strategy to China's plan to annex Taiwan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Lebensraum means state expansion or state consciousness. The German geographer and ethnographer Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904) coined the word Lebensraum (1901), which became popular after Germany made it a foreign policy. As a policy, it was first used by Nazi Germany during World War I to conquer territories in Eastern Europe. In the 1920s, Adolf Hitler in his book, *Mein Kampf* defined the

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# INDIA USA AND CENTRAL ASIA

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## Abstract

### India, USA and Central Asia

#### India-Kazakhstan Relations - Close, Cordial and Consistent

Prof. R.G.Gidadhuli

Kazakhstan is the largest country in the Central Asian region, and ninth largest country in the world. Kazakhstan is strategically located with China on the east and Russia on the north. An effort has been made to elaborate relations between India and Kazakhstan.

#### India Uzbekistan Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges

Prof. Manas Chakrabarty

Before we go into the discussion of India- Uzbekistan relationship, let us throw some light on the primary concept of international relations. As we live in the present century, it can be said that no nation or country can live in isolation. Coexistence of the nations is the order of the day. (Malhotra, 2001). It is a cross border transactions of all kinds, political, economic and social. (Brown and Ainley 2009).

#### India -Central Asia: Deciphering Strategic Convergence

Prof. Snehalata Panda

Central Asian nations have diversified engagement with countries having stable socio-political environment, economic viability, defence capabilities and potential market for its products. India has an opportunity to enhance its engagement with the resource rich countries of Central Asia.

#### India's Connectivity Projects and Necklace of Diamond Strategy in Central Asia

Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan, Dr. Santwana Pandey and Dr. Ram Babu

In its renewed engagement with the Central Asian republics in the after math of the Soviet disintegration, the only prominent hindrance that has constrained New Delhi's direct entry into the heartland region is the geographical barrier. In order to overcome them, India has redesigned its strategies and initiatives under the aegis of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation.

#### Revitalizing Historical Roots of India's Engagement with Central Asia: Exploring Opportunities for Energy Cooperation

Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar

This paper delves into India's engagement with Central Asia, particularly focusing on energy cooperation as a catalyst for revitalizing their historical ties. Recognizing energy security as paramount for its rapid economic growth, India actively seeks collaborations to ensure a stable energy environment. Central Asia's historical and geopolitical significance, coupled with its substantial energy resources, positions it as a strategic partner.

#### India-Uzbekistan Relations: Exploring the Path of Contemporary Cooperation

Dr. Sanjit Pal

India and Uzbekistan have shared historical and cultural ties dating back centuries. In recent years, these two nations have embarked on a journey of strengthening bilateral relations, forging a path of contemporary cooperation. This article delves into the multifaceted aspects of the India-Uzbekistan relationship, examining the key areas of collaboration, challenges faced, and the potential for future growth. The article begins by highlighting the historical context that laid the foundation for the present-day cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.

#### USA - India Defense Relations

Dr. Biswa Ranjan Mohanty and Prof. Suraj Kumar Mishra

India, the world's biggest importer of weapons, has long been desperate to expand its indigenous defence industry. It has not been easy. A "Make in India" defence policy was launched eight years ago, followed in 2020 by "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India), when the government raised the maximum stake that could be held by foreigners in joint ventures in defence from 49% to 74%. However, by the start of last year, foreign direct investment in the defence industry had reached only \$380m, against a target of \$10bn by 2025.

#### Trans Boundary Water Disputes in Central Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation

Dr. Uttam K. Mandal

Central Asia, comprising Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, is largely arid, with limited freshwater resources. The region heavily relies on transboundary rivers such as the Amu Dar ya, Syr Dar ya, and their tributaries, which originate outside the region. These water sources are critical for irrigation, energy production, and domestic consumption, but they are increasingly facing challenges due to a combination of factors, including population growth, climate change, inefficient water usage, and infrastructure limitations.

#### India -USA-Mongolia Relations: A Trilateral Analysis

Hari Godara

International relations among countries are shaped by complex interactions and geopolitical considerations. In this context, the relationship between India, the USA, and Mongolia holds significant importance in the broader geopolitical landscape.



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**Prof. Ramakrushna Pradhan and Nirmal Bag**

Myanmar, also known as Burma has suffered decades of repressive military rule, widespread poverty and civil war with ethnic majority groups. A period of brief democratic reform has been dashed by the military coup in 2021. A shadow government formed by the government to resist the military junta was responded by the military with a brutal crackdown on opposition forces and protestors. This paper examines the civil-military conflict in Myanmar and its implications for India in this backdrop. The coup just not crushed the hope of revival of civilian government but also brought in untold miseries to the people in the form of unprecedented economic turmoil, abject poverty, and hunger and refugee crisis forcing thousands to leave Myanmar in the

face of brutal repression and cleansing by the military junta. This unprecedented civil-military conflict in Myanmar no doubt has its domino effects for the neighbouring

**The civil-military conflict in Myanmar presents a multifaceted and challenging situation with significant implications for India. As Myanmar's neighbour, India finds itself into a complex connection in the conflict's geopolitical, security, economic, and humanitarian dimensions. As a responsible regional actor, India must adopt an exact and holistic approach that emphasizes diplomatic engagement with Myanmar, crisis management, regional cooperation, and humanitarian assistance.**

countries. India being the proximate neighbour having deep-rooted historical ties and significant strategic interests certainly has geopolitical implications of the Myanmar conflict in terms of security concerns, refugee influx, and economic repercussions and regional stability. In this milieu, this article attempts to study the civil-military conflict in

Myanmar and examines its broader implications for India and its geopolitical implications for larger national security concerns.

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