

## **COMPARISON OF FOREIGN POLICY OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA DURING 2018 TO 2021**

**Annam Malik**

M.Phil Scholar Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science  
and Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**Email:** [annammalik92@gmail.com](mailto:annammalik92@gmail.com)

**Tayyaba Jadoon**

M.Phil Scholar Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science  
and Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**Email:** [jadoontyba@gmail.com](mailto:jadoontyba@gmail.com)

**Safa Noor**

M.Phil Scholar Department of Pakistan Studies, Abbottabad University of Science  
and Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**Email:** [mj8447270@gmail.com](mailto:mj8447270@gmail.com)

**Dr. Imran Naseem**

Corresponding Author : Assistant Professor, Department of Pakistan Studies,  
Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**Email:** [dr.imrannaseem@gmail.com](mailto:dr.imrannaseem@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

*The article "Comparison of Foreign Policy of Pakistan and India During 2018 to 2021" examines how both countries have navigated key strategic choices and diplomatic maneuvers while navigating South Asia's geopolitical environment. The study sheds light on the subtle differences between Pakistan's and India's foreign policies in the context of evolving global dynamics by carefully examining each one. Through an analysis of regional dynamics, diplomatic tactics, and economic factors, it outlines the distinct routes taken by Pakistan and India at this pivotal time. The finding of the study highlights the various diplomatic efforts, tactical moves, and strategic goals that each nation has used to shape its foreign policy trajectory. In terms of methodology, this research makes use of a combination of comparative frameworks, policy analysis, and diplomatic discourse analysis to decipher the nuances of South Asian geopolitics. This research provides insightful analyses of the strategic environments of Pakistan and India, offering a nuanced knowledge of their positions in*

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*the changing global order through a succinct yet thorough analysis.*

**Keywords:** *Foreign policy, Pakistan, India, economic, regional dynamics policy makers.*

### INTRODUCTION

*As Pakistan and India negotiated their foreign policy from 2018 to 2021, the geopolitical landscape of South Asia saw dramatic changes and clever diplomatic maneuvers. There are significant consequences for the countries and the larger international community from this crucial time of strategic decision-making, regional engagements, and global connections. This research explores a thorough assessment of Pakistan's and India's foreign policies in this period, clarifying the main goals and supporting objectives that guide the investigation. As sovereign states, Pakistan and India have both developed their foreign policy over time in order to protect their own interests, promote diplomatic contacts, and support world peace. A period of great significance, marked by shifting alliances, geopolitical tensions, and economic difficulties, is encompassed by the years 2018 to 2021. The complexities in these countries' foreign policy demand a careful analysis of regional dynamics, economic circumstances, and diplomatic strategies. The primary objective is to differentiate and evaluate the deviations in the foreign policies adapted by Pakistan and India during this specified period. This entails a comprehensive analysis of diplomatic strategies, alliances, and geopolitical posturing. While both nations have been facing historical complexities, their responses to international issues, conflicts, and global partnerships have shaped their respective course of action. By studying the policy statements, diplomatic engagements, and strategic alignments, this study aims to understand the individual struggle chosen by both Pakistan and India in their pursuit of foreign policy objectives. A crucial aspect of this research includes a thorough analysis of the interactions between India and Pakistan and their surrounding nations. Because of their historical connections and close neighborhood, regional dynamics are crucial in determining foreign policy. The research goes beyond bilateral ties to include diplomatic approaches, regional crises, and global initiatives. Through analyzing the different shades of relations with surrounding countries, this goal aims to reveal the regional policies made behind the curtain that shaped South Asian foreign policy perspectives. One of the most important components of foreign policy is economic considerations. In order to achieve this goal, the economic situations in Pakistan and India during the research period will be compared. The larger picture of how the concern of economic stability interacts with foreign policy goals is influenced by elements including economic development, trade relationships, and financial measures. By analyzing the economic aspects, it will become easy to identify the goals, difficulties, and reasons guiding both countries' foreign policy. The ultimate goal*

concerns a thorough analysis of the tactics that is used by Pakistan and India to distinguish their foreign policy from one another. This includes interaction with international institutions, defense positions, and diplomatic movements. The goal of the study is to pinpoint the fundamental ideas that influence foreign policy decisions by closely examining the strategic decisions made by each country. To determine the uniqueness of their foreign policy requires an awareness of the tactics used, whether they are focused on utilizing soft power, engaging in regional forums, or managing global power dynamics. Therefore, this study starts on a journey to discover the complexities of the foreign policies adapted by Pakistan and India from 2018 to 2021. Through a multi-dimensional analysis, it seeks to contribute to the scholarly discourse on international relations, regional dynamics, and the evolving role of these nations in the global arena. The objectives will be discussed in detail in the subsequent sections below, providing in-depth insights and analyses to paint a comprehensive picture of the foreign policy landscape in South Asia during this transformative period.

There has been a great deal of work and research on this subject, but the goal of this study is to analyze the foreign policies of India and Pakistan in order to identify the strengths, flaws, and discrepancies between their strategies from 2018 to 2021.

This research has a great significance that it will give the comparison of foreign policy of Pakistan and India. It would also analyze and discuss the relationships with other countries, the economic condition and highlight the strategies of both countries. It is significant for researchers, media and academic journalists. This research also provides suggestion to foreign policy's makers, government, politician and the researchers.

### **Objectives of Research**

#### **Main Objective**

To Compare the Foreign Policy of Pakistan and India During 2018 to 2021

#### **Sub Objective**

- To evaluate the differences between the foreign policy of Pakistan and India.
- To analyze the relationships of Pakistan and India with their neighboring countries.
- To differentiate the economic condition of Pakistan and India during 2018 to 2021.
- To examine the strategies that differentiates the foreign policies of Pakistan and India.

#### **Review of Literature**

Sumita Kumar in "Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Trends and Challenges" offers a comprehensive examination of Pakistan's foreign policy, highlighting the significance of strategic relationships and tracing its historical origins. It provides a

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*thoughtful analysis the geopolitical dynamics and prospective obstacles of Pakistan. It highlights the difficulties brought about by the ties of nation to extremist organizations, which have alienated powerful nations like US and China, (Kumar 2019).*

*The literature examines Pakistan's foreign policy dynamics, highlighting both its historical significance as a major state and its vast cultural variety. It outlines the fundamental ideas of sovereignty and non-interference that guide Pakistan's international relations. We talk about Pakistan's active participation in global institutions and the Stability Pact for South Asia. This article examines Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, specifically during the PTI regime, with a focus on economic diplomacy, global cooperation, and regional stability. The paper ends with suggestions for strengthening ties with India that place a strong emphasis on economic growth, democracy, and human rights. Additionally, it draws attention to the continuity seen under the present PTI government by contrasting it with the foreign policy of previous governments,(Muhammmad Aslam 2022).*

*The literature offers a perceptive evaluation of Pakistan's foreign policy, highlighting the difficulties and possibilities that the country must overcome. It focuses on the timeframe from August 2018 to December 2020 and provides a critical analysis of the institutional, political, and operational elements affecting foreign policy. The report stresses the need for a fresh, inclusive strategy while also acknowledging successes and encouraging trends. It also describes the complex interplay between diplomatic, economic, and defensive aspects of foreign policy and establishes the framework for further studies that focus on certain facets of Pakistan's international relations, (Altaf 2021).*

*A thorough examination of the last five years of Prime Minister Modi's second term's revolutionary path of Indian foreign policy is provided by the literature. Acknowledging the unique imprint of the Modi administration, the story highlights India's transition from a cautious to an assertive player in the world, motivated by goals of becoming a regulator. Investigated are important geopolitical factors such as South Asian problems, Indo-Pacific considerations, India's interactions with major powers, and strategic alliances in Latin America, West Asia, and Central Asia. The report also assesses India's standing within the worldwide multilateral framework, taking into account its interactions with international organizations, climate change initiatives, and nuclear policies. The article ends by highlighting the fluidity of Indian foreign policy, highlighting upcoming prospects and difficulties, and advocating for a more comprehensive discussion on the country's future course as it strives to become a major world power, (Taneja 2019)*

Imran Khan's foreign policy is analyzed by Riaz Khokhar, who emphasizes open borders and economic cooperation as key strategies in Afghanistan. Mutual acceptance of priorities is key to establishing a fruitful US-Taliban partnership, especially when it comes to aiding continuing peace negotiations. Despite obstacles arising from the Kashmir dispute and the impending Indian elections, a resolve to maintain communication with India is evident, (Khokhar n.d.)

The literature presents India's inspirational vision for its 75th Independence Day in 2022, highlighting the necessity of swift economic change to attain prosperity and double-digit growth. The paper offers recommendations for each of the four main pillars drivers, infrastructure, inclusivity, and governance. It emphasizes the government's dedication to establishing a development state emphasizing effective public-private collaborations and conforming to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The suggested actions include raising GDP growth, advancing infrastructure, strengthening agricultural methods, and placing a higher priority on health and education. The all-encompassing strategy represents a collective cry for a drastic change, imploring the public, business, and governmental sectors to collaborate for the envisaged New India, (D. R. Kumar n.d.)

The literature examines how Pakistan's foreign policy has changed under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, highlighting changes in diplomatic outreach, economic diplomacy, and ideological inclinations. It explores how domestic elements that shape Pakistan's foreign policy, such as normative values and military power, interact. The influence of shifting regional and global dynamics including ties with China, Russia, and the United States is examined in this article. The report draws attention to the obstacles and offers reform suggestions for a strong, independent foreign policy in the face of shifting international political trends.(Anwar 2020).

This policy brief looks at institutional, political, and operational aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy from 2018 to 2020 while the country is led by the current administration. It criticizes the government's efforts to fortify the Foreign Service and highlights the difficulties and opportunities the Foreign Office faces. Pakistan's founding fathers' diplomatic ideas, geographical challenges, and historical background are all highlighted in the document. The study notes the multifaceted character of diplomacy while identifying the broad spectrum of foreign policy, spanning bilateral, regional, and international components. Later in the series, briefs will be released that will focus on particular facets of Pakistan's foreign policy, (Altaf, *The Conduct of Pakistan's Foreign Policy Structure, Strength and Issues(2018-2020)* 2021).

The main aim of the literature review is finding the gap between the already existing research and the current research. As current research is on comparative

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*analyses of Pakistani and Indian foreign policy during 2018 to 2021 and majority of books and articles are not covering all aspects of foreign policy of Pakistan and India. The articles and books compared the economic situations, bilateral relations, historical aspects their relations with neighboring countries, their alliances with US and China, the strategies of both countries and their governmental structure during the 2018 to 2021 as a separate topics but the current research will cover the comparison of the relations with neighboring countries, the economic condition and the strategies of Pakistan and India during 2010-2021.*

### **Research Methodology**

*The research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Data for this research is collected from secondary data including different articles, books, research paper, newspapers and various journals. The sources will be helpful to analyze the comparison of foreign policy of Pakistan and India. The techniques are both descriptive and analytical which applied to compare the Foreign Policy of both Pakistan and India during 2018 to 2021.*

### **Significance of 2018-2021 Period**

*India's and Pakistan's foreign policies have been significantly impacted by the dynamic landscape of shifting global alignments and heightened geopolitical tensions that has been observed between 2018 and 2021. The dynamic nature of international relations, the emergence of power dynamics, and geopolitical events significantly impacted the strategic choices made by both countries. This era necessitated quick adaptation to deal with the complexity of a constantly shifting international order.<sup>12</sup>*

- **Economic Difficulties and Historical Complexities**

*During this period, India and Pakistan's foreign policies were significantly shaped by historical and economic challenges. There were additional layers of complication brought about by trade conflicts, economic downturns, and unsolved historical difficulties, which affected diplomatic relations and strategic choices.<sup>3</sup>*

- **Need for Comprehensive Analysis**

*The complex issues brought about by changing alliances, geopolitical tensions, economic hardships, and historical legacies demand a thorough examination of India and Pakistan's foreign policies from 2018 to 2021. In order to get insights into the regional dynamics, scholars, politicians, and analysts must comprehend the nuances of their strategic decisions.<sup>4</sup>*

*The 2018–2021 period is significant because it will play a pivotal role in determining how India and Pakistan will pursue their foreign policies, which will have a significant impact on regional and global dynamics. Gaining an understanding of this period's nuances will help you better appreciate how difficult their diplomatic*

efforts were.

### **Regional Dynamics, Diplomatic Strategies and Alliances**

Global alliances underwent a substantial reorganization between 2018 and 2021. For example, a 25% increase in arms imports indicates a significant increase in defense cooperation between the United States and India, according to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In the meantime, Pakistan strengthened its strategic alliance with China, increasing defense cooperation by 30% in the same time frame.<sup>5</sup> These figures underscore the tangible shifts in alliances influencing the foreign policies of both nations.

### **Economic Consideration in Foreign Policy**

In the period from 2001 to 2019, India's GDP growth rate exceeded Pakistan's, prior to Pakistan's growth in 2020. In 1988, India's GDP growth rate reached a height of 9.63%, and by 2020, it had dropped to a minimum of -5.83%. Pakistan saw record lows of 1.27% in 2020 and all-time highs of 11.35% in 1970. Pakistan experienced three years of growth over 10% between 1961 and 2022, whilst India did not. While Pakistan has only ever had negative GDP growth, India has had negative GDP growth for the past five years.

Despite its efforts to manage the Covid-19 pandemic, India saw a 27 percent growth in foreign direct investment (FDI) to \$64 billion. This was mostly due to strong investments made in the country's construction and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors. With large agreements including ICT, health, infrastructure, and energy, cross-border mergers and acquisitions increased by 83 percent to \$27 billion. Significant deals included the \$5.7 billion purchase of Jio Platforms by Facebook subsidiary Jaadhu, the \$3.7 billion purchase of Tower Infrastructure Trust by Canadian Brookfield and Singaporean GIC, and the \$2.1 billion sale of Larsen & Toubro India's electrical and automation division. Another enormous transaction, the \$4.6 billion combination of Unilever India and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare India, also made a contribution.

On the other hand, FDI in Pakistan decreased by about 6% to \$2.1 billion, helped by ongoing investments in the energy and telecommunications sectors. Unctad reports that from \$44.5 billion in 2016 to \$64 billion in 2020, FDI flows to India increased by an astounding 45 percent. While inward flows to South Asia increased by more than 30% to \$70.9 billion during the same time, Pakistan had a nearly 5% decline in FDI, from \$2.5 billion to \$2.1 billion.<sup>6</sup>

### **Tactics and Uniqueness in Foreign Policy**

Both India and Pakistan adopted different approaches to foreign policy between 2018 and 2021, each with its own special characteristics and range of strategies. The foreign policies of India and Pakistan throughout this time are

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*compared in this research.*

*In order to support economic cooperation and geopolitical alliances, Pakistan gave top priority to fortifying connections with regional allies like China and Saudi Arabia.<sup>7</sup> Pakistan made diplomatic attempts to keep a cooperative relationship with the United States despite periodic disagreements, especially in areas like counterterrorism and regional stability.<sup>8</sup> Pakistan has persistently brought attention to the Kashmir conflict on the international scene, requesting assistance from the international community to tackle human rights abuses in the area.<sup>9</sup> In particular, through programs like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and interactions with Gulf nations for financial support, Pakistan aggressively pursued international investment and economic alliances.<sup>10</sup>*

*India and the US strengthened their strategic alliance with an emphasis on defense cooperation, counterterrorism initiatives, and commercial relations.<sup>11</sup> India placed a strong emphasis on strengthening ties with its neighbors by implementing programs like the Neighborhood First Policy, which aims to increase South Asia's connectivity and cooperation.<sup>12</sup> India pushed attempts at economic integration, taking part in regional trade accords like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and launching programs like the Act East Policy to improve relations between the country and Southeast Asia.<sup>13</sup> India engaged with nations in Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific region in an effort to broaden its diplomatic reach and diversify its strategic alliances beyond traditional allies.<sup>14</sup>*

*Both Pakistan and India had to maintain their independence in their foreign policy choices while simultaneously playing a careful balancing act between powerful nations like the US, China, and Russia.<sup>15</sup> Similar security issues that both Pakistan and India had to deal with, such as terrorism and instability in Afghanistan, affected how they approached the region in terms of foreign policy.<sup>16</sup> Both nations took an active position in regional and multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations, to handle shared issues and advance their interests on the global stages.<sup>17</sup>*

### ***Journey of Discovery***

*Geopolitical intricacies and dynamic movements shaped Pakistan's and India's foreign policies between 2018 and 2021. This research sets out on a thorough exploration with the goal of analyzing and contrasting the diplomatic ploys, regional involvement, and strategic goals of both nations at this pivotal time.*

*Due to their distinct national interests and geographical situations, Pakistan and India pursue different strategic goals. Both nations express their interests in areas including security, economic development, and regional stability through official pronouncements and policy documents.<sup>18</sup> It is imperative to place Pakistan's and*



India's foreign policy within the larger geopolitical framework in order to fully appreciate their nuances. The strategic decisions made by them are heavily influenced by various factors, including global power dynamics, historical tensions, and regional conflicts.<sup>19</sup> The analysis of Pakistan's and India's maneuvering through regional dynamics is a crucial component of comparison. Evaluation of their interactions with other nations, involvement in regional organizations, and initiatives for peacekeeping and conflict resolution are all part of this.<sup>20</sup> In order to further their interests on the international scene, Pakistan and India both aim to develop strategic alliances with important international entities. These connections, which range from defense contracts to business collaborations, are essential in determining their foreign policy.<sup>21</sup>

Initiatives and diplomatic maneuvers are tools for advancing national objectives and expanding influence internationally. Pakistan and India negotiate challenging geopolitical terrain through bilateral negotiations, diplomatic visits, and participation in global organizations.<sup>22</sup> Analyzing Pakistan's and India's achievements, failures, and difficulties provides important insights into the effectiveness of their foreign policies. The results of their diplomatic efforts are influenced by external forces, public opinion, and domestic political dynamics.<sup>23</sup> Identifying areas of convergence, divergence, and possible routes for cooperation becomes crucial when learning from the comparative analysis. It is imperative to evaluate the consequences for the prospective foreign policy paths of Pakistan and India in order to effectively navigate the dynamic geopolitical environment.<sup>24</sup>

From 2018 to 2021, the journey of discovery sheds light on the complex foreign policy tangle between India and Pakistan. This comparative research offers important insights into the intricacies of South Asian geopolitics through a thorough examination of strategic goals, regional involvement, diplomatic maneuvers, and future trajectories.

### **Conclusion**

A pivotal moment in the foreign policy of both India and Pakistan occurred between 2018 and 2021, characterized by geopolitical complexity, economic difficulties, and dramatic changes in regional relationships. Several important conclusions have been drawn from a thorough examination of their diplomatic contacts, strategic choices, and regional dynamics.

The study highlights the divergent strategies that India and Pakistan have used to advance their national interests internationally. India strengthened its strategic cooperation with the United States and concentrated on fostering better relations with neighboring countries through programs like the Neighborhood First Policy, while Pakistan prioritized fortifying ties with regional allies like China and

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*Saudi Arabia. It is impossible to overestimate the influence of economic factors on choices on foreign policy. The differences between Pakistan and India's GDP growth rates and inflows of foreign direct investment show the difficulties both countries face in their economies and their attempts to draw in outside capital and promote economic cooperation. The research also highlights the significance of diplomatic manoeuvres and tactical interactions in furthering domestic agendas and augmenting worldwide sway. In order to navigate the complicated geopolitical landscape and maintain balance with big powers, both countries actively participated in multilateral forums and pursued strategic partnerships with important global players.*

*Essentially, the comparative examination of the foreign policies of India and Pakistan from 2018 to 2021 advances the academic conversation on regional dynamics, international relations, and the changing roles of these countries in the world. It offers a comprehensive grasp of the diplomatic maneuvers, economic factors, and strategic choices that mold South Asia's foreign policy environment. These insights are extremely helpful in navigating the intricate geopolitical issues of the twenty-first century.*



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