

Title:- India-Iran Strategic and Economic Relations (1991-2022)

Abstract

The proposed research examines the strategic and economic relations between India and Iran from 1991 to 2022 through the lens of various theoretical frameworks. **Neorealism** emphasises the security maximisation efforts of both nations within a multipolar context, highlighting Iran as India's western access point while India provides strategic depth for Iran to mitigate its regional isolation. **Neoliberal Institutionalism** sheds light on their collaborative efforts by referencing institutions such as the Chabahar Agreement and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which facilitate cooperation despite systemic limitations. **Constructivism** illustrates how shared civilizational ties, historical connections, and common non-Western identities foster mutual understanding with reference to cultural diplomacy and interpersonal exchanges. **Hedging Theory** accounts for India's strategy of maintaining autonomy, avoiding exclusive affiliations with any particular bloc. While engaging with Iran, it tries to cultivate relationships with the United States, Israel, and Gulf countries. **Complex Interdependence** reveals how interconnected initiatives, energy security issues, and transnational economic networks create mutual vulnerabilities and opportunities that extend beyond traditional security considerations.

Keeping in view the paradigmatic outlook as mentioned above let us contextualised the relations between India and Iran through the lens of different perspectives affecting their bilateral relations. The geostrategic importance of Iran for India's energy security and regional connectivity, infrastructure projects,

and dynamics of soft power diplomacy are evident. The geopolitical challenges posed by major powers such as the U.S., rivalries between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the strategic partnership between China and Pakistan would be the thrust dimensions of the proposed research. It highlights how India navigates the conflicting pressures through a pragmatic approach, engaging selectively with Iran on critical interests such as Chabahar while addressing concerns related to Western sanctions.

..... ..
..... ..