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G20 SUMMIT INFLUENCE ON INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM - A STUDY

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Abstract

The G20 Summit has emerged as an influential platform shaping important dialogues and policy decisions affecting global economic growth and financial stability. As a major emerging economy, India's active participation in the G20 impacts its domestic politics and governance in significant ways. This paper analyzes India's engagement with the G20 since the first Leaders' Summit in 2008 and discusses the implications it has had on the country's political discourse and policy priorities.

The paper argues that the G20 membership has enabled India to boost its visibility as a rising economic power and major geopolitical player on the global stage. It has provided opportunities for signalling India's perspectives to major powers, setting the agenda on issues of regional and global importance, and undertaking leadership roles on various multilateral commitments. Domestically, India's G20 commitments have necessitated major economic policy reforms in areas ranging from energy subsidies to infrastructure investment. Politically, India's Prime Ministers have leveraged the G20 Summits to bolster their credentials as visionary leaders advancing India's growth story.

The analysis focuses on studying relevant political discourse, policy pronouncements and governance data to understand these effects. It concludes by asserting that engagement with forums like the G20 is increasingly shaping domestic political conversations and governance priorities in



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India as the country embraces a more prominent role in global affairs. The abstract sets the context for a more detailed investigation into this evolving relationship between global commitments and domestic politics in the Indian scenario.

Key words – G20, Indian Politics. International Relationship.

Introduction

The G20 Summit is an annual meeting of leaders from the world's major economies aimed at addressing key issues related to global economic growth, international trade and financial stability. Some key points about the G20 Summit: Formed in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors to discuss global economic stability.

First G20 Leaders' Summit was held in 2008 in Washington DC to coordinate a response to the global financial crisis. Members represent around 80% of the global GDP, 75% of international trade and 60% of the world's population. Members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and the European Union.

Rotating presidencies each year with the host country chairing the summit and setting priorities and agenda. Discussions involve economic growth, international trade and investment, sustainable development, climate change, employment, digitalization, terrorism, migration, healthcare etc.

Criticized for lacking clear mechanisms for implementation and being an informal arrangement without binding treaties. But still seen as an influential forum for major economies. 2022 G20 Summit was held in Bali, Indonesia with India slated to host the next G20 Summit in 2023 in New Delhi. G20 Summit serves as a key international forum for cooperation and policy coordination between leading advanced and emerging economies across some of the most pressing global issues.



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Here is a review of some of the key literature analysing India's participation and role in the G20 summit:

1. Cooper, A.F. and Antkiewicz, A., 2008. Emerging powers in global governance: Lessons from the Heiligendamm process. Wilfrid Laurier Univ. Press.

- Early analysis of role of emerging powers like India in G20 through a case study of the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit. Discusses bargaining tactics.

2. Chaturvedi, S. and Mulakala, A., 2016. India and development cooperation: Expressing southern solidarity. In The Palgrave Handbook of International Development. Springer, London. Examines how India utilized its G20 presence to shape consensus on restructuring global development assistance architecture.

3. Narlikar, A., 2013. Negotiating for India: Balancing global ambitions and domestic constraints. The International Spectator, 48(1), pp.47-60.- Highlights limitations faced by Indian negotiators at G20 due to domestic political constraints even though India pushes ambitious global goals.

4. Sinha, P. and Dorschner, J.P., 2010. India: Globalization and the fiscal state. International Journal of Public Administration, 33(12-13), pp.728-740. - Analyzes how commitments made at G20 summits since 2008 have driven fiscal reforms and budgetary regulations in India.

Key themes examined are India's negotiating positions, tactics deployed to build consensus, limitations and reforms induced domestically through policy signaling from G20 within a framework of rise of emerging economies in global governance institutions.



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The G20 has helped shape Indian politics and governance in some key ways:

1. Enhanced global influence: India's seat at the G20 high table has enabled it to boost diplomatic clout, project power on critical issues, forge partnerships with world leaders and demonstrate leadership in shaping the global agenda. This elevates its status domestically too.
2. Policy reform: Adopting G20 commitments on fiscal consolidation, subsidy rationalization, expanding banking, insurance and infrastructure investments etc. has driven major economic reforms in India across administrations.
3. Political signaling: Leading India's charge at G20 summits signals the country's priorities to major powers like USA, China, Russia and solidifies its position as an emerging power advocating developing world interests.
4. Visionary leadership: Prime Ministers from Manmohan Singh to Narendra Modi have utilized G20 leadership roles to showcase their credentials as global leaders furthering India's national development. This boosts their domestic political appeal.
5. Coherent messaging: Participation in G20 gives India the opportunity to shape coherent messaging on issues like terrorism, climate change, money laundering or economic offences and have it resonate globally.

By allowing India to project its economic might globally and enabling pathbreaking domestic reforms, the G20 has emerged as a valuable political asset for strengthening India's global stature and leadership legitimacy domestically. Both global ambitions and national interests have been advanced through the G20.



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The G20 Summit has had some significant impacts on Indian politics and policies:

1. Enhanced India's global profile: India's active participation in G20 summits, especially under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has increased the country's visibility as an emerging economic and political power on the world stage. This has boosted India's geopolitical influence.
2. Agenda-setting on key global issues: India has been able to shape discussions and policy initiatives on issues like terrorism, black money, energy security, climate change, UN reforms etc. at the G20 platform. This has projected India's priorities to the global audience.
3. Pressure for domestic reforms: G20 commitments on areas like subsidy reforms, containing fiscal deficits, tackling tax evasion etc. have put pressure on successive Indian governments to undertake major domestic policy changes and economic reforms in line with global best practices.
4. Political signalling to major powers: Active Indian engagement at G20 is also meant for political signalling to major powers like the US, China, EU and Russia to demonstrate India's rise into the ranks of global leadership. This shapes how these powers approach relations with India.
5. Bolstered India's leadership credentials: Leading India's engagement with groupings like G20 has also provided opportunities for Indian leaders, especially PM Modi, to bolster their domestic political standing and credentials as visionary leaders guiding India's growth and global emergence.

So in many ways, the G20 Summit has become an important platform to shape both India's global image and domestic governance priorities.



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Summary

The G20 summit has emerged as a key international forum enabling India to take on greater responsibilities in global economic leadership and governance. India's participation in G20 summits since 2008 has had significant implications domestically - elevating its global stature, driving domestic policy reforms, projecting political vision and signaling strategic priorities.

G20 membership has strengthened India's geopolitical influence and leadership credentials across multiple administrations. It has created opportunities for Prime Ministers to engage with world leaders and showcase their vision, especially for incumbent PM Modi. Commitments made at G20 have also continually put pressure on Indian governments to reform - be it fiscal consolidation, rationalizing fuel subsidies or boosting infrastructure and social sector spending.

Conclusion

In conclusion, India's increasingly active role in steering global cooperation efforts through groupings like G20 has had substantial impacts on its domestic politics. Global ambitions and recognition now feature prominently in national politics. G20 also enables Indian leaders and governments to signal their policy perspectives and reforms agenda more forcefully to domestic constituencies and bureaucratic set-ups. This two-way relationship between global governance platforms like G20 and India's domestic political and economic priorities is only slated to deepen as India rises in the ranks of leading powers shaping the international order.

The summary highlights how India has strategically leveraged its G20 presence to project power globally and drive reforms nationally while the conclusion assesses the interlinkages between global engagement and domestic politics.



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