

Lesson's from Operation Sindoor's global outreach

PYQs linkage:

- ✚ Examine the role of 'Parliamentary diplomacy' in India's foreign policy. **10(2019)**
- ✚ Discuss the role of public diplomacy in the enhancement of India's global standing. **10(2022)**

Theory application: sociological liberalism, public diplomacy, Soft power

Public diplomacy:

- Public diplomacy: process and practice by which nation-states and other international actors engage global publics to serve their interests
- information activities that prioritize the foreign policy goals and national interests of a particular state.
- to influence foreign opinion in competition with nation-state rivals.

Soft power: (Joseph Nye)

- The ability to influence others through attraction rather than coercion, is the means by which nations shape perceptions.
- India's soft power diplomacy toolkit : YOGA, Bollywood, India's traditions and cultural heritage
- Capable of evoking interest and fostering understanding far beyond the geopolitical considerations.

Concepts and keywords:

diplomatic outreach, global perceptions, public diplomacy, legitimate exercise of self-defence, soft power diplomacy, strategic imperative, geopolitical, sovereign right to self-defence, building global consensus, diplomatic toolkit,

Brief analysis and key points from the news or editorial:

Objective of the global outreach:

- to provide clarity on “operation sindoor”
- explaining that India’s actions were a legitimate exercise
- a necessary response to persistent cross border terrorism (to underscore Pakistan’s continued links to terrorism)
- build global consensus on holding perpetrators of terrorism accountable.

Specific efforts for public diplomacy under this outreach:

- Detailed and persuasive engagement
- Patient and persistent presentation of facts, overcoming the initial misunderstanding or deliberative misinformation.
- Parliamentarian delegates engaged with public representatives, lawmakers, government leaders, think-tanks, policy-shapers and national media.

Significance of this outreach:

- Immediate crisis management
- Served as a powerful reminder of the enduring relevance of soft power diplomacy.
- Reinforcing the legitimacy of India's position through verifiable facts and consistent advocacy.
- Showing the power of national unity in projecting a strong foreign policy voice.
- Colombia's retraction of its initial statement and subsequent reaffirmation of support of India's sovereign right to self-defence.
- U.S. representatives echoing India's concern and urging decisive action against terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba.
- Panama's explicit support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UNSC. (it highlights the strategic imperative of nurturing relationships with a broad spectrum of nations)
- Helpful in cultivating long term diplomatic ties
- It underscores the critical need for intensive engagement with western and mainstream media.
- Consistent presence in global media landscapes is essential to counter false narratives and ensure India's perspective is expressed accurately and persuasively.

Way forward:

- The outreach brought to the fore the importance of proactive and consistent public diplomacy.
- Diplomatic outreach must seamlessly blend security concerns with economic opportunities, creating mutually beneficial partnerships.
- **3 Ts (Tech,trade,tradition) drivers of India's future global strategy.**
(all of these reflects liberal thinking,)
- India must actively promote technological breakthroughs and foster collaborative innovation with international partners.
(functionalist approach, building peace by pieces.)
- India must proactively expand its trade volumes and diversify its trade basket. (Neo liberal prescription)
- India must continue to elevate diplomatic outreach in South and Central America, including reciprocal VVIP visits
- MEA should engage with heads of multilateral bodies (UNGA AND UN) to address terrorism issue and also ensures comprehensive briefings to UN representatives.

Conclusion: the power of unity the efficacy of clear communication, the strategic value of soft power, and the imperative of sustained public diplomacy will serve as guiding principles as India navigates an increasingly complex international landscape, leveraging its 3Ts and always striving for a more just, secure, and prosperous world.