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India's Foreign Relations

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The book under review is a compilation of scores of documents related with the Indian Foreign Policy. The book begins with the biographical sketches of President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State E. Ahamed and Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh. The book contains four hundred and seventy eight documents and is divided into eleven sub-sections. The sub sections are arranged regionally and chronologically.

The first sub-section is of general nature, and speeches of the government functionaries are compiled under it. It also contains the statements made by the representatives of other countries. Acknowledging the importance of the United Nation and its reform process that has been under discussion for a long time is dealt under the second sub-section. The author has concentrated on the statements made by various government functionaries and ministers in different international forums. The collections in the section deal mainly with the reform of the UN. The third sub-section deals with 'Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas'. The section is very brief and provides the speeches of Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister and the then External Affairs Minister of India.

The fourth sub-section deals with Asian Tsunami. The document compiled in this sub-section is about the media briefing by official spokesperson on US proposal to form a coordinating group for relief efforts in the wake of Tsunami and Indian help for Tsunami affected countries. It provides the statement of official spokesperson and also the of the India's initiatives taken by the government for the affected countries namely Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, Maldives etc. The fifth sub-section deals with the issues related with South Asia. As the region is most important for India it provides all the documents that were released during and before the twelfth SAARC summit. The sub-section is further divided into a sub-section and discusses the statements made by the Indian officials during their visit to the member countries. Recognising the importance of Pakistan the major portion of the sub-section talks about Pakistan.

The sixth sub-section deals with Central and West Asia. The countries covered under the section are Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. It also provides the statements made by the Indian officials, and statements made by the visiting delegates from the above-mentioned countries. The seventh sub-section deals with South East Asia and East Asia. The section provides the statement of Dr. Manmohan Singh delivered during ASEAN and BIMSTEC-EC summit. It also provides statements of government dignitaries during their visit to the countries of the region. The South East Asian countries that are covered in the section are Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. In a similar vein the subsection talks about the countries of the East Asia like China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Mongolia.

The eighth sub-section of the book deals with Africa and it provides the statements made by official spokesperson. The sub-section provides the relevant documents of African countries like Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania. The ninth sub-section deals with Americas and it is further divided into North America, United States of America, Central and South America. It provides all the relevant documents pertaining to Indo-US dialogues on multitude of issues. The countries that were placed low in the priority list of foreign policy making have also been covered under the section namely, El Salvador and Jamaica.

The tenth sub-section deals with Europe and all the countries of the European Union have been covered under the sub-section. The last sub-section of the book provides a compilation of the relevant documents pertaining to the United Nation Organisation. The sub-section presents the statements of Permanent Representative of India at the United Nation and the statement of the Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of India.

The author of the book has done a splendid job by putting all the necessary documents pertaining to the foreign policy in a form of compendium. The Editor of the book has taken pains in producing an unique compilation which has a lot of significance for those interested in following the course of Indian foreign policy particularly academia and researchers. It is an authentic resource material for conducting future researches in Indian Foreign Policy.