

EVALUATING EVACUATION MISSIONS IN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY: CASE STUDY OF VANDE BHARAT, OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU AND OPERATION GANGA

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by
SHRIPAD MASSO GAONKAR

Seat No: 22P0210024
ABC ID: 729-815-283-053
PRN: 201900663

Under the Supervision of
SHRI. RAVAJI GAUNKAR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

D.D. Kosambi School of Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies
Political Science



Goa University

APRIL 2024

Examined by: **Ravaji V. Gaunkar**



DECLARATION BY STUDENT

I hereby declare that the data presented in this Dissertation report entitled, "**Evaluating Evacuation Missions in India's Foreign Policy: Case Study of Vande Bharat, Operation Samudra Setu, and Operation Ganga**" is based on the results of investigations carried out by me in the Political Science Programme at the D.D. Kosambi School of Social Science & Behavioural Studies, Goa University under the Supervision of Shri. Ravaji Vasant Gaunkar and the same has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of a degree or diploma by me. Further, I understand that Goa University or its authorities will be not be responsible for the correctness of observations / experimental or other findings given the dissertation.

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Shripad Masso Gaonkar
Seat no: 22PO210024
Political Science Programme
D.D. Kosambi School of
Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Date: 19 April 2024
Place: Goa University

COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation report "**Evaluating Evacuation Missions in India's Foreign Policy: Case Study of Vande Bharat, Operation Samudra Setu, and Operation Ganga**" is a bonafide work carried out by **Mr. Shripad Masso Gaonkar** under my supervision in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of **Master of Arts** in the **Political Science Programme** at the D.D. Kosambi School of Social Science & Behavioural Studies, Goa University.

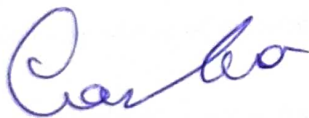


Shri Ravaji Vasant Gaunkar

Supervisor

Political Science Programme

Date: 19 April 2024



Prof. Ganesha Somayaji

Dean

D.D. Kosambi School of
Social Sciences and Behavioural Studies

Date: 19/04/2024
Place: Goa University



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

India is located in the South Asian continent which covers 2.4% of the world's land area and 17.5% (1.4 billion) of total world's total population which makes India the largest populated country. India is one of the largest democracies in the world and it is known for its diversity, Multi-Lingual, and Multi-Culture, even with diverse ideologies India always believed in mutual understanding and co-existing. India achieved its independence in 1947 and Constitution was adopted in November 1949 and came into force in January 1950. The Indian Constitution talks about the protection and promotion of Human Security, so these are the thrust areas of our constitution. Because of these principles, India is always at the forefront of saving and securing their citizens wherever they are. The constitution is a reflection of different international laws and conventions that protect the fundamental and inalienable rights of human beings. The same constitution is reflected in India's Foreign Policies.

Foreign policy is a set of principles, decisions, and means, adopted and followed by a nation for securing the goals of National Interest in International Relations. Foreign Policy is about the actions taken by countries to influence the behavior of other nations to adapt and adjust their activities in response to the international environment. India's foreign policy is always active to achieve the constitutional goal. Foreign policy is a set of principles and decisions adopted and

used by a nation for conducting a nation with other nations and all intellectual actors to secure the preferred and defined goals of the national interest.

The Ministry of External Affairs manages India's foreign relations, ensuring a strategic and principled approach to its engagements. India's status as a progressing industrialized nation, its active participation in international organizations, and its unique geographic position in South Asia all contribute to its role as a major player in the global and regional arena, dedicated to promoting peace, cooperation, and economic growth. Even any foreign-related meetings, visits, and operations were conducted and launched through the Ministry of External Affairs with the help of other actors including the recent and past evacuation missions.

Throughout the past, India has done a lot to protect and promote the idea of human security. "While India is not a newcomer to conducting evacuation operations, it has traditionally faced significant challenges in deploying its diplomatic and military assets abroad to protect its diaspora"(Xavier, 2016, P. 5). Since its independence Indian Government has taken a lot of initiatives to protect their citizens in different countries and had faced certain challenges to ensure their safety. The mission of evacuating citizens from foreign countries is highly complicated, involving various challenges like distance, logistics, security, and coordination. The obstacles posed by these factors can be numerous. The nature of such operations can take diverse forms, including geographic location, the characteristics of the crisis environment, and the scale of the population that needs to be rescued. Evacuation strategies include Assessment, Planning, Operational Execution, and Post-Evacuation Evaluation (Ibid). Each stage plays a crucial role in the overall effectiveness of the evacuation process.

The world order is volatile due to various development activities which lead to instability and uncertainty, thus making the countries launch and take various initiatives to bring back their citizens through evacuation missions for those who are living and working in those foreign countries for jobs and higher studies and their life are in danger due to certain conflict or any issue, for their safety and well-being every country government is concerned for their respective citizens.

According to the UN, World Migration Report, 2022, India has the world's biggest diaspora of most Indians living in various countries across the border worldwide with 17.9 million. So far India has conducted more than 30 evacuation operations across the world, especially in the countries of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

In 2019 the world was in a difficult phase due to the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic. Especially in the year 2020, it was at a peak level the entire world was in a socio-economic crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic restricts the movement of people, goods, and services across the border. Thousands of Indian citizens were stuck in other countries due to the lockdown and all the airlines and other transportation were closed. During this difficult phase India not only evacuated its citizens even though also provided and supplied food grains and Indian-made vaccines to other countries which helped them to make their health better and fight the COVID battle. India initiated the Vande Bharat Mission to bring back Indian nationals back to the country on May 7, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Over seven days until May 13, 64 flights operated to repatriate approximately 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad. The endeavor, driven by the Ministry of External Affairs, aimed to bring citizens home on compelling grounds. Notably, the largest number of flights originated from Kerala, with additional

significant departures from Delhi-NCR, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and other states. The mission underscored meticulous planning and coordination, urging stranded individuals to stay in regular contact with their embassies.

On the other side, the Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu on May 5, 2020, aimed to bring back Indians stranded abroad due to COVID-19, as part of the national effort to repatriate citizens. Indian Navy ships Jalashwa, Airavat, Shardul, and Magar covered over 23,000 kilometers in 55 days, successfully evacuating 3,992 citizens (Kumar and Narayanan, 2020). Operation Samudra Setu showcased the Indian Navy's commitment to assisting citizens in challenging times. Overall, Operation Samudra Setu symbolized India's dedication to assisting its people in challenging times. The combined efforts of Vande Bharat Mission and Samudra Setu showcased a comprehensive strategy to bring Indians home during an unprecedented global challenge. The operation involved coordination with government agencies, emphasizing adaptability and efficiency.

In the context of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the need for evacuation arises due to the escalating violence and war, putting the lives of Indian citizens in Ukraine at risk. Evacuation missions aim to swiftly and safely bring individuals back to their home countries, providing a secure escape from conflict zones. The government initiates such efforts to ensure the protection of its citizens, offering them a route to safety in the middle of challenging and unpredictable circumstances. The evacuation mission is 'Operation Ganga', launched on February 27, 2022, in response to the escalating tensions between Ukraine and Russia, major cities find themselves under siege, prompting nations worldwide to intensify efforts to evacuate their citizens trapped in the conflict zone. In response, India has initiated Operation Ganga, a strategic mission aimed at

safely repatriating its nationals stranded in Ukraine, as the specter of war casts a shadow over the region. Operation Ganga is a significant evacuation effort by the Government of India to bring back around 22,500 (excluding foreign citizens and pets) stranded Indian citizens from war-torn Ukraine. The initiative includes operating evacuation flights from neighboring countries like Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland due to the closure of Ukrainian airspace. The government, emphasizing its commitment to citizen's safety, bears the entire cost of the evacuation process. Control centers and a dedicated Twitter helpline named 'OpGanga' had been set up to facilitate coordination and assistance. Union Ministers, including Jyotiraditya Scindia and Hardeep Singh Puri, were actively involved in coordinating the evacuation mission in neighboring countries, highlighting the gravity of the situation as the Russian military advances in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

Today, evacuation missions are an example of a proactive approach by nations to safeguard the lives of their citizens during times of crisis and it reflects the country's commitment to the human security of citizens. The study focuses on evacuation missions in India's Foreign Policy case study of Vande Bharath, Operation Samudra Setu, and Operation Ganga.

Literature Review

The Greek philosopher Aristotle states that 'Man is a social animal', which means they couldn't live in isolation. Thus, well well-managed and peaceful society is the common interest of every human being. Another thinker Hobbes considered human beings as selfish and self-centered. While Locke considered them as peace-loving and not selfish. On the other side, Rousseau discusses the Social Contract of General Will which represents the common interest of all human

beings. All these thinkers' views on human beings and society classify today's society as a world where the entire world is connected through globalization and dependent on each other. How at the individual level the people are self-interested and at the national level, national interest prevails. The common national interest for which everyone is concerned is 'Human Security'.

The scope of global security should include threats in six areas, they are – Economic Security, Food Security, Health Security, Environmental Security, Community Security, and Political Security.

Human security takes the most dramatic steps among various concepts by moving from the state, society, or community to the one's individual. Traditional security was mainly focused on the 'state-centered' and mainly to gain security from all types of threats that endanger its sovereignty territory, and existence. But the human security is different from it. It is a 'people-centered' concept and its main idea is "how free and secure are we as individuals". (Singh,2016).

The contemporary world is an insecure place, full of threats from conflicts, poverty, terrorism, pandemics, and other social and economic problems. These issues involve various forms of human security. And when they overlap, it causes exponential, affecting lives, and communities and transcending national boundaries.

The United Nations with its member states plays an important role in making the Human Security Approach stronger and strengthening resilience to climate change and natural disasters, promoting a peaceful and inclusive society, and addressing the causes of poverty and other issues (Human Security Handbook, United Nation Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016). The human security approach provides a new perspective on addressing 21st-century challenges with integrated responses through collaborative efforts. Human security has been a significant focus

since the last decade. Development agencies, international commissions, policy analysts, and scholars worldwide have classified approaches into four categories, they are – United Nations Development Program approach, Government level approach, Independent commission approach, and Academic level approach. (Singh, 2017)

The Human Security Handbook of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (2016) mentioned that the General Assembly strongly supports and promotes the common understanding of the Human Security approach within the United Nations system. They emphasize the right of individuals to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and fear. To strengthen human security it calls for people-centered, context-specific, and prevention-oriented responses, and also acknowledges the interlinkages between peace, development, and human rights. The notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation. It reinforces national ownership since the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions for human security differ across borders and within countries and promotes solutions compatible with local realities. (UNTFHS Report, 2016)

The concept of human security has evolved drastically since it was introduced for the first time two decades ago. It has established a significant importance at the domestic and international levels politically, economically, and socially. When we discuss human security the primary focus must be given to the individual rather than only focusing on the state. The Indian Evacuation Operations are the reflection of this approach like how the Indian Government is concerned for their citizens at the international level by highlighting the National Interest with people people-centered approach.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic was the toughest phase of the first quarter of the 21st century the world ever had. It started from the last quarter of November 2019 to till today somewhat. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world fell into isolation, all transportations were restricted which led to the stop of people's movement away from their homes. India has almost 17.9 million diaspora throughout the world. Thus, countries like India who always involved in safeguarding their people and promoting the idea of 'Human Security' like how they responded in the last decades.

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global lockdowns, the Indian government took decisive action by launching the Vande Bharat Mission in May 2020. This initiative was a proactive measure to evacuate stranded Indian citizens abroad, particularly in regions with a significant Indian diaspora, such as the Gulf countries. Before the nationwide lockdown in India on March 24, 2020, the government had already conducted various evacuation missions to places like Wuhan, Japan, Iran, and Italy. However, with the implementation of the lockdown, these missions came to a standstill, leaving many Indians stranded abroad. The Vande Bharat Mission, a collaborative effort involving the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs, and Civil Aviation, as well as state governments, utilized aircraft and naval ships for the evacuation. The initiative was a response to the overwhelming requests for repatriation, especially from Gulf countries like the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. The Indian Navy played a crucial role under the name Samudra Setu (Sea Bridge), extending its involvement to the Gulf region for the evacuation of stranded Indians. A comprehensive protocol was established to ensure the safety and health of the returnees, involving coordination with Indian embassies, high commissions, and consulates. Stranded

nationals were instructed to register, follow health protocols, and undergo quarantine upon returning to India.

The first phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, which commenced on May 7, 2020, involved 64 flights to 12 countries, including the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UK. Simultaneously, the Indian Navy dispatched ships to the Maldives and UAE as part of the evacuation efforts.

Approximately 12,708 passengers were repatriated during this phase, marking the mission's careful planning and coordination to ensure the health and safety of the stranded Indians throughout the evacuation process and quarantine upon return.

On May 10, 2020, INS Magar, the second naval ship of the Indian Navy's Operation Samudra Setu, arrived at Male Port to evacuate around 2000 stranded Indian nationals from the Maldives. The ship, equipped for landing operations, had made logistical and medical preparations in Kochi before setting sail. Stringent COVID-19 precautions, including social distancing, were implemented on board, with designated sections for evacuees, separate facilities for different groups, and additional measures to prevent crowding in common areas. Meanwhile, the first ship, INS Jalashwa, had already reached Kochi with 698 Indian citizens evacuated from the Maldives. The Indian Envoy Sunjay Sudhir to Maldives said "Operation Samudra Setu is the largest evacuation ever in our history, credits to Indian Navy", and "We are giving top priority to medical cases, women, and to those who lost their jobs" while interviewing with the ANI News reporter. (Sunjay, 2020).

On 28 September 2020, Indian Ambassador Sibi George in his speech on 'Indian Diplomacy During COVID: Challenges and Opportunities' highlighted the impacts and challenges created by the COVID pandemic on global dynamics, emphasizing the shift in diplomatic priorities from

traditional engagement to crisis management and India's role in global conservation and its continued efforts to shape international perspectives. He described the adaptation of a new style and format of diplomacy that has transformed in the face of restrictions, with virtual meetings replacing traditional ones. Despite these challenges, he stresses India's active diplomatic engagement on bilateral, regional, and multilateral fronts. (George, 2020).

Addressing the bigger picture, Ambassador George explores the opportunities arising from the challenges posed by the pandemic. He advocates for India to become a central hub in global supply chains, emphasizing the potential for increased collaboration with friendly countries. He highlighted India's role during these difficult times of pandemic, the pharma industry of India has sent essential medicines to more than 150 countries. Also mentioned as the largest vaccineproducing country in the world, India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be used to help all humanity in fighting this crisis. The diplomat asserts India's commitment to global cooperation, detailing the country's contributions to combating the pandemic, particularly in pharmaceuticals and vaccine production.

Another case study of India's Evacuation Mission is 'Operation Ganga'. The mission started due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the conflict has its roots in 2014 when Russia invaded the Crimea part of Ukraine. This conflict affected the thousands of students including other Indian origin persons. This conflict with using deadly weapons, mass destruction, and loss of human life leads India to launch a safe evacuation operation with the code name of 'OPERATION GANGA' to evacuate citizens. Before launching this operation, the Indian embassy planned and executed accordingly even before the beginning of the war, i.e. on 24th February 2022. Before executing the operation, the Indian embassy did proper research work. They organized virtual meetings to interact with students and a student registration portal was

launched to understand their place of residence. The data revealed that 40% of students are from the Eastern side which is the mainly Russia – Ukraine border, the other 40% of students are from the West side which is far away from the conflict zones, and the rest 20% were from other parts of the country.

The document titled Snapshot of India of Press & Information Wing, High Commission of India (2022) highlights the evacuation mission Operation Ganga. As per the document, the evacuation mission begins on the 3rd day of war i.e. on 26th February 2022. As per the authority's direction the first flight 'Air India' flew out from Bucharest in Romania. On the next day i.e. 4th day, 27 February Air India flight landed back with 250 and a total of 469 Indian students in Delhi. Also, the Indian government provided humanitarian relief (medicines and other essential items) to Ukraine. While evacuating our citizens, it also ensures to evacuate the other countries' citizens mainly those who need help like Pakistan and Bangladesh as well to provide them human security. This action of India shows India's vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The whole world is one family)', which was focussed during the G-20 (Global-20) Summit.

Amid the intensifying crisis in Ukraine, the Indian government, under Operation Ganga, has successfully repatriated a record number of Indian citizens. Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a high-level meeting to discuss the evolving situation and India's efforts for citizen evacuation. During the armed conflict, the students from various countries witnessed a bombing and airstrikes. Thus in response to that government made a special effort to evacuate citizens, especially students from Kharkiv and Pischyn. The evacuation process witnessed the evacuation of thousands of people to India through civilian and Air Force aircraft. Since the Ukrainian airspace was closed for civilian flights as attacks continued in major Ukrainian cities, the government started operating special flights from neighboring countries like Poland, Slovak

Republic, Romania, and Hungary. The Indian embassy in Ukraine reported the successful evacuation of all citizens from the city of Pischyn, with a focus on the war-affected city of Sumy. "Operation Ganga" was launched by India to facilitate the evacuation, deploying four Union ministers as special envoys to Ukraine's neighboring countries. As part of the operation, 27 control centers have been established at border crossing points with Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Slovak Republic to coordinate the safe return of Indian citizens from Ukraine.

There are not many research studies on evacuation missions during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Russian-Ukraine conflict. Thus this study focuses on research on two important evacuation missions launched due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Research Question

- ❖ How effective were Government of India's evacuation missions in ensuring the safety of citizens during COVID Pandemic and Russia-Ukraine Conflict?
- ❖ What were the challenges faced by the government in coordinating evacuation missions?
- ❖ Is the Public satisfied on India's Evacuation Missions?

Hypothesis

1. Indian Government had successfully evacuated their citizens during COVID Pandemic and Russia-Ukraine Conflict.
2. Human Security of a large Indian diaspora was a major challenge in coordinating Evacuation Mission.

3. India's active engagement in International Cooperation and Coordination results in high trust of the people on Government in Evacuation Missions.

Objectives

1. To study the evacuation missions of Government of India.
2. To study the importance of Evacuation Missions under India's Foreign Policy.
3. To study the India's evacuation mission during COVID Pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict.
4. To study the challenges faced by Government of India during Evacuation mission.
5. To study the public response towards Evacuation Missions.

Methodology

The research is based on the case studies with descriptive, comparative and analytical. In this study the data will be collected in Primary and Secondary sources. Respondent opinions will be gathered through structured questionnaire.

Chapterisation

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The first chapter is focuses on a brief outline of the thesis by introducing the topic with the literature review, based on my research topic a relevant and specific Research Questions, Hypothesis, Objectives and Methodology were taken.

Chapter 2 – Historical Background and Theoretical Framework

The second chapter will provide understanding a brief on the India's past initiatives to highlight the evolution of evacuation operations and foreign policy. This chapter will also cover the Theory of Human Security with relation to the Constitutional Provisions, Judiciary and International Law.

Chapter 3 – Evacuation Operations: Operation Ganga, Operation Samudra Setu and Vande Bharath

This chapter will be the core part of the research, it includes the evaluation of relevant evacuation initiatives led by the Government of India and explores the roles of Diplomacy, Civil and Military. It will highlight the challenges and opportunities occurred during evacuating and after. The chapter will also cover the response of officials, evacuees and the viewpoints of the professors over this issue and evacuating operation.

Chapter 4 – Data Analysis

This chapter focused on the frame questionnaire, a selective response from the professors were taken for better analytical and critical understanding of these missions.

Chapter 5 – Conclusion

In the last chapter, will focus on the summarization of the data and provide a relevant conclusion to the research.

Scope Of The Study

The presented study focuses on evacuation missions conducted by the Indian Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukraine conflict. The study covers various dimensions and issues related to Evacuation Missions such as the strategies employed by the Government of India with Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defense and Private Stakeholders in conducting evacuation missions, including the Planning, Coordination, and Execution of Operations under the launched of Vande Bharat Mission, Operation Samudra Setu and Operation Ganga. The study will be exploring the area for further research.

CHAPTER 2

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND & THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Introduction to India's Foreign Policy

India got its independence on 15th August 1947 from British rule and has navigated a complex and ever-evolving landscape of international relations. Since its Independence, India is always been a challenging nation for both internal and external matters whether it's for border disputes or any policy-related related. The country's foreign policy has been shaped by the leadership of various Prime Ministers who have made significant contributions to India's stance on global issues whether it was during the Cold War or else forming important organizations or during the conflict times.

Jawaharlal Nehru –

After India gained its independence, Jawaharlal Nehru became India's first Prime Minister and played an important role in framing the country's foreign policy in the early years of its independence. Nehru's foreign policy was influenced by the geopolitical dynamics of the Cold War era, with India positioned between the Western bloc which is led by the United States, and the Eastern bloc led by the Soviet Union. During this Cold War era PM Nehru pursued a policy of non-alignment with other countries of Yugoslavia, Egyptian, Indonesia, and Ghanaian, aiming to maintain their sovereignty of independence and neutrality in their struggle for power, they provided a third option to all the newly decolonized countries i.e. not to join any of the blocs and remained an independent.

During his tenure, India emerged as a significant player in multilateral institutions, particularly in United Nations peacekeeping operations and Non-Alignment and Decolonization. India's commitment to peace and international cooperation was evident in its active participation in UN peacekeeping missions, sending troops to conflict zones such as Korea, Congo, and Cyprus. These efforts showcased India's commitment to maintaining global peace and security. On the other hand, his key foreign policy objectives and aims were to support and promote the decolonization movement and the rights of countries that have newly gained independence as sovereign nations from colonial rule. Even in parts of Africa and Asia, India played a crucial role in supporting the end of colonial rule. Nehru's stand on the Non-Alignment Policy provided an option to maintain good relations with both Western and Eastern blocs, making India a mediator in international disputes and conflicts.

Indira Gandhi –

Indira Gandhi served as India's First Female Prime Minister from 1966 - 1977 and again from 1980 to 1984 and faced significant challenges in the realm of foreign policy. Thus, due to her Indira Doctrine, she was considered a realist leader mainly for her realist and rational policies. During her tenure, India grappled with regional conflicts, terrorism, and the need to strengthen its border defenses. Gandhi's foreign policy focused on ensuring India's security and countering militancy. In response to the growing threat of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, she authorized military interventions, most notably in the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. This military victory not only secured India's borders but also solidified its position as a regional power.

Rajiv Gandhi –

After taking office as prime minister in 1984, Rajiv Gandhi carried out important economic reforms that opened up India's marketplaces to international trade. India's foreign policy was significantly impacted by this change toward economic liberalization.

Gandhi aimed to bring in foreign investment and technology by fostering stronger diplomatic ties with nations, especially those in the West. He vigorously pushed to integrate India into the world economy and marketed the country as a desirable location for international corporations.

PV Narasimha Rao –

PV Prime Minister of India from 1991 to 1996, Narasimha Rao, is recognized for having led the country's efforts toward economic liberalization. His administration carried out important reforms that allowed foreign trade and investment in the Indian economy.

India also implemented a "Look East" policy under Rao's direction, to foster greater economic cooperation and links with Southeast Asian countries. This change in strategy was a reflection of India's growing ambitions to dominate its territory in Asia.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee –

India's foreign policy was significantly shaped by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the country's prime minister from 1998 to 2004, especially in the area of nuclear diplomacy. India was designated as a nuclear-armed state by Vajpayee's administration, which also implemented a credible minimum deterrence strategy. India demonstrated its nuclear capabilities to the world by carrying out several nuclear tests in 1998. The results of these tests, also referred to as the Pokhran-II tests, had a big impact on India's foreign policy and ties with other countries. Vajpayee started peace measures with Pakistan and other nearby nations. The two nuclear-armed countries sought to settle long-standing disputes at the historic Agra Summit in 2001. Even though the summit did

not provide the expected outcomes, it did show India's commitment to peaceful dispute resolution.

Dr. Manmohan Singh –

During his tenure as prime minister from 2004 to 2014, Manmohan Singh prioritized international collaboration and economic integration. The goals of Singh's administration's policies were to boost commercial ties, draw in foreign capital, and improve India's standing in international organizations. India aspired to strengthen its relations with powerful nations like the US, the EU, and Japan under Singh's direction. An important turning point in India's foreign policy was the 2008 signing of the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which demonstrated the country's increasing prominence on the international scene.

Narendra Modi –

As India's prime minister since 2014, Narendra Modi has adopted an assertive foreign policy that is centered on commerce, investment, and regional cooperation. The "Make in India" program was started by the Modi administration to encourage global companies to invest in India and support homegrown manufacturing. Regional cooperation has also been stressed by Modi's foreign policy initiatives, especially under the "Neighborhood First" strategy. India has improved commercial agreements, people-to-people exchanges, and infrastructure development initiatives with its neighbors, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. India's foreign policy has evolved significantly since its independence, with each Prime Minister leaving a distinct imprint on the country's approach to international relations. From Nehru's non-alignment to Modi's assertive diplomacy, India has navigated a complex global landscape while staying true to its core values and national interests.

The journey of India's foreign policy reflects its aspirations for regional and global leadership, striving for peace, economic prosperity, and a secure environment. As the world continues to evolve, India's foreign policy will undoubtedly face new challenges and opportunities, requiring dynamic and adaptive leadership to shape its future path. (Deshpande, 2022).

India's Position on Important International Events

India is a sovereign country committed to global governance. India as a responsible player has been actively participating in humanitarian initiatives and global decision-making processes. India demonstrates its commitment to international stability by making significant contributions to peacekeeping operations and decision-making processes inside international organizations such as the United Nations. India plays a crucial role in economic governance and fair trade discussions as a member of the G20 and an active participant in the World Trade Organisation. It prioritizes its interests while promoting international collaboration.

With efforts like the Paris Agreement and the International Solar Alliance, India exhibits proactive leadership in tackling urgent global concerns, including climate change, highlighting its commitment to sustainable growth and environmental stewardship. Furthermore, India's response to evacuation operations in times of crisis demonstrates its dedication to ensuring the security and welfare of both its inhabitants and visitors. India conducts mass evacuations with compassion and efficiency thanks to its strategic preparation, quick crisis reaction, and collaboration with foreign partners.

India's "Vande Bharat Mission" exhibited one of the greatest evacuation efforts globally during the COVID-19 epidemic, demonstrating the country's commitment to helping its countrymen who were stuck overseas in extraordinary circumstances. Furthermore, India's track record of effectively removing people from war areas highlights its proactive approach to crisis management and humanitarian aid. India plays a major role in promoting peace, security, and well-being globally through its active involvement in global governance and its unwavering adherence to humanitarian ideals. India's humanitarian principles are visible in the constitution (The Law of the Land).

Human Rights under the Indian Constitution

—Human Rights are the rights of individuals to meet their needs and purposes being the first and foremost rights against society rather than against other individuals|| (Khosla and Semwal, 2011). The human right is the most basic right of the person and against state conduct violating international law or custom, they are safeguarded. Human rights go into several articles of the Indian Constitution. In particular, the right to life seems to differentiate the importance given to the old British people's lives as more valuable and reliable data than for the famed and prosperous modern man.

Human rights are not a new thing, but have a longer history. The pursuit of human dignity as well as the promotion of individual development can be rooted in the ancient Indian Vedas, Agamas, and Upanishads. These texts all extol morals, wisdom, and the necessity of fulfilling duties to others--especially those in dire poverty. Without exception for class or sex, they plead to attain courtesy and sympathy.

Most of the demand for human rights that you see today arose from India's struggle against colonialism. The Indian National Congress (INC), which in 1885 argued for an equitable sharing of power with the colonialists, was the instrument for the struggle. In a decision on "civil rights," the INC held that everyone should be entitled to stand equally before the law and that laws and practices discriminating or segregating among citizens should be abolished. The Indian Constitution incorporated these demands as fundamental rights.

Understanding Human Rights in India

Indian culture has been associated with the concept of human rights for hundreds of years. The importance of human dignity and that it must be guaranteed. Many directions of religion, culture, and ideology fell into India's melting pot. Amid these contradictory influences the civilization retained a clear-cut character of its own.

India is made up of people of different races, ethnic backgrounds, and religions. Indian tradition puts more stress on the love of a son for his parents than on the love between husband and wife or the passion of a man for a woman. The Indian conception of human rights flows from the ethical principles and moral standards grounded in Indian culture. It transcended any particular social relationships or genealogical origins.

Constitutional Protection of Human Rights in India

In 1950, India's constitution included provisions for fundamental human rights. The declaration is Part III of the Constitution which is the most important. According to this law, striking down does not affect actions taken in the past and laws are needed that will carry out just policies aiming for economic growth; there has been no decision elsewhere on nullifying things like previous actions. This law also has what is called the "Directive Principles of State Policy"; these ideals are supposed to help governments make decisions about tax rates or wealth redistribution.

The Indian Supreme Court has played a key role in the development and interpretation of fundamental rights. It did go beyond original connotations, in the sense of Articles 14 and 21. The courts have interpreted the principle of equality before the law, and the right to life in a broad way and they have been particularly helpful in ensuring that people are protected from discrimination and can live a human life. If any of their rights are violated then they can approach the apex court of India as per the provision of Article 32 _Constitutional Remedies‘.

The Role of the Judiciary in Protecting Human Rights

If India wants to protect and uphold human rights, it must rely largely on the judiciary. It is a necessity that officials respect the people's rights and liberties. It also precludes abuses of power. However, the main body responsible for enhancing and interpreting human rights has been the Supreme Court. The international organization has also come to realize that if human rights are to succeed it is necessary not only to be heavy-handed in executing constitutional rights. Every time citizens choose the government they want, they decide what laws abrogate them.

The Supreme Court in great measure is utilizing human rights jurisprudence. This goes well beyond the sovereign intents of the Constitution's drafters about what rights we individuals ought to have, opening up new horizons. In India, the Court has quoted international conventions, protocols, and declarations based on which it interprets and safeguards human rights. As for enforcing their decisions in practice, they have made equality before the law and the right to life central considerations.

A strong framework is provided by the Indian Constitution for the protection of human rights, in particular equality and the right to life. The rich historical origins of Indian culture have come together with the institutional and judicial remedies found in the constitution to create a bedrock for improving and guaranteeing human rights in India. Interpretation through the judicial process and the expansion of rights means that the fundamental rights in this country are not just something said but something concrete a reality enjoyed by every person.

India's Evacuation Operations from the 1990s

India has a long history of effectively evacuating its citizens from dangerous regions and places devastated by natural disasters. The Indian government has launched many expeditions throughout the years to rescue Indians who have become stuck abroad. India's dedication to ensuring the safety and welfare of its inhabitants is demonstrated by these evacuation efforts.

Operation Kuwait Airlift (1990) – When India started the historic Kuwait Airlift in 1990, it was a major turning point in the country's evacuation operations. After Iraq invaded Kuwait, more than 1,70,000 Indians were left trapped in the war-torn nation. The Indian government promptly

launched an effort to save its nationals in response. Thousands of Indians were returned to their motherland during the huge airlift operation known as the Kuwait Airlift, which took place between August and October of 1990. The Kuwait Airlift was a remarkable feat of logistics and coordination, demonstrating India's commitment to the safety of its citizens.

Operation Sukoon (2006) – With Operation Sukoon in 2006, India demonstrated its commitment to the well-being of its citizens once more. With tensions between Israel and Lebanon rising, the mission's goal was to rescue over 12,000 Indians who were stuck in Lebanon. The confrontation presented a serious risk to Indian residents' safety, thus prompt action was required. The Indian government was successful in evacuating and repatriating its trapped individuals under Operation Sukoon. (Press Information Bureau, 2006).

Operation Maitri (2015) – Operation Maitri, which took place in 2015, stands out as one of India's most remarkable evacuation missions. In reaction to the terrible earthquake that rocked Nepal, the Indian government and the Indian Armed Forces carried out this cooperative relief and rescue operation. Through the use of both Indian Air Force (IAF) and private aircraft, more than 5,000 Indians were evacuated from Nepal during the operation. Operation Maitri demonstrated India's capacity to offer humanitarian relief in times of need in addition to highlighting the country's dedication to its citizens. Operation Maitri was a testament to the strong bond between India and Nepal, as well as India's dedication to helping its neighbors in times of need.

Operation Raahat (2015) – Operation Raahat, which took place in 2015, was another amazing evacuation operation that India executed. The goal of this endeavor was to save thousands of Indians who were stuck in Yemen's devastated conflict zone. The Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government's ongoing conflict made it very difficult for those who were stuck there to flee the

nation. Nonetheless, the Indian government successfully evacuated 5,600 persons from Yemen, guaranteeing their safe return to India, and working in tandem with other agencies.

Operation Vande Bharat Mission (2020) – Unprecedented difficulties brought forth by the COVID-19 epidemic included the requirement to save Indian nationals who were stuck abroad. The Indian government started Operation Vande Bharat Mission in 2020 as a reaction. This effort, which was conducted in several stages, was to return Indian nationals who were stranded overseas because of travel restrictions. Six million Indians were returned from various regions of the world, making it one of the biggest evacuation operations in history. The Vande Bharat Mission showcased the Indian government's dedication to the welfare of its citizens, even in the face of a global crisis. (Press Information Bureau, 2021).

Operation Devi Shakti (2021) – India launched Operation Devi Shakti in response to the fall of Kabul in 2021 and the disintegration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Indian Armed Forces carried out the operation to securely remove Indian citizens from Afghanistan. It was an intricate and difficult undertaking to transport Indians out of Kabul in the middle of the havoc the Taliban had wrought. Indians who were stranded were successfully returned and given the assistance they needed thanks to Operation Devi Shakti.

Operation Ganga (2022) – India's dedication to ensuring the security of its people was proven once more in 2022 with Operation Ganga. The mission's goal was to remove trapped Indians from Ukraine's devastated combat zone. The Indian government moved quickly to initiate the operation in response to the escalating turmoil in Ukraine, and it was successful in returning thousands of Indian people who were trapped. Around 22,500 Indians returned from Ukraine to India from 1 February - 11 March 2022, and 90 evacuation flights were operated under Operation

Ganga. The airfare for Operation Ganga is entirely borne by the Government of India. (Press Information Bureau, 2022). India's readiness and effectiveness in carrying out intricate evacuation operations under difficult conditions were demonstrated during Operation Ganga.

Operation Ajay (2023) – India conducted Operation Ajay in 2023 to protect its nationals during the Israel-Palestine war. Indians became trapped and in dire need of aid as hostilities increased and the security situation worsened. Around 1,180 Indians who were trapped were successfully rescued by Operation Ajay, assuring their safe return to India. The expedition demonstrated India's dedication to its citizens' welfare and its capacity to act quickly in times of need. (The Hindu, 2023).

India's commitment to the security and welfare of its people is demonstrated by the country's history of conducting evacuation operations. India has continuously shown it can carry out effective rescue operations in times of crisis, from the Kuwait Airlift in 1990 to more contemporary missions like Operation Ajay. These operations reaffirm India's position as a responsible global participant while also demonstrating the country's dedication to its citizens. India's relief operations and its willingness to assist its people in need are exemplified by its evacuation missions. India's evacuation operations reflect the nation's commitment to its citizens, regardless of the challenges or distance involved. India has gained the respect and admiration of the world community by demonstrating through a string of completed missions its capacity to act decisively and quickly in times of crisis. India's commitment to the security and welfare of its people will not waver, even in the face of new difficulties.

Human Security Approach

To guarantee the safety and well-being of people as well as communities, human security is essential. Over time, the idea of security has expanded to include people's rights and dignity in addition to the defense of territorial boundaries. The idea of human security has changed throughout time, moving from emphasizing state security to putting people's safety and wellbeing first. It includes aspects like food security, health security, personal security, environmental security, and economic security. Modern perspectives on human security place a strong emphasis on the value of a people-centered strategy, the advancement of human rights, and the development of each person's potential. Despite some criticism, the idea is nevertheless vital for advancing people's security and well-being both individually and as a community. (UNDP Report, 1994).

On the other hand, the more expansive interpretation of human security merely restates, and may even weaken the current human rights framework. This is particularly true when it comes to the transformation of state commitments to uphold citizens' unalienable rights into choices about which components of security to safeguard in certain situations. (Howard, 2012 pp.89). Human security covers a wide range of topics that improve people's lives both individually and collectively. Several interrelated and dependent elements are included in the concept of human security. Ensuring access to essential resources, providing chances for a living, and guarding against poverty and inequality are the main goals of economic security. The significance of natural resource protection and sustainable development is acknowledged by environmental security. The emphasis on freedom from hunger and access to wholesome food is known as food security. Disease prevention, response strategies, and access to healthcare services are all

included in health security. Protection from crime, violence, and violations of human rights is the focus of personal security. The preservation of minority rights, inclusion, and social cohesiveness are prioritized in community security. Last but not least, political security emphasizes the defense of human rights, democratic government, and the rule of law.

Changing Paradigm of Human Security Approach

The idea of human security has changed significantly over time, moving from a war-centered to a people-centered approach after World War II. As the shortcomings of sovereignty-based security became clear, protecting people's lives was given priority. The 1948 promulgation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which placed a strong emphasis on defending peoples' rights and well-being, served to further solidify this change. Furthermore, when non-economic aspects of development programs were promoted by international organizations such as the United Nations, the human rights perspective on security and development gained traction. Acknowledging that development has several social, cultural, civic, political, and psychological facets, this strategy aimed to advance a more comprehensive and just type of development, ultimately improving human security.

With the conclusion of the Cold War in the 1990s, it became more and more obvious that the conventional definition of security was insufficient to meet the demands of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. As a result, the idea of human security evolved into a multifaceted framework that included aspects of international relations, human rights, human development, and strategic studies. The Human Development Report 1994 by the United Nations Development

Programme played a crucial role in emphasizing the need for human security in tackling worldwide instabilities, especially affecting disadvantaged and marginalized communities. The contemporary notion of human security recognizes the interdependence of many hazards to the welfare of persons and emphasizes the significance of all-encompassing strategies to guarantee the safety and respect of every person.

Human rights now include a wide range of human existence as well as many facets of society and human life. Human rights are protected and advanced by a multitude of international conventions, procedures, and groups, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These rights include those that support policies that improve human security, such as the Right to Food, which improves human security.

Comparison Of State Security and Human Security

When it comes to comprehending and resolving security issues, state security, and human security represent two opposing paradigms, each with its ramifications, scope, and point of emphasis. The main goals of state security, often referred to as conventional security, are to safeguard the interests, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of a nation-state. It places a strong emphasis on defending borders, institutions, and ideals against outside threats—often using force. Maintaining national stability and dominance is the primary goal of state security, which views the state as the primary player in security problems. Securing borders, preserving internal order, and bolstering military capability are the core goals of state security strategies and programs.

However, human security offers a more comprehensive viewpoint that centers security issues on people and communities. The concept of security involves several facets, such as political, environmental, food, health, and economic security. The goal of human security is to safeguard people from a variety of hazards, such as sickness, poverty, environmental degradation, and violations of human rights. Human security, as opposed to state security, emphasizes the necessity of international collaboration and collaborative action while acknowledging the interdependence of global security concerns. Human security places a higher priority on each person's well-being and dignity than state security does on defending the interests and sovereignty of the state. It aims to create an environment free from fear and desire by addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability and insecurity. Human security also highlights how crucial it is to provide communities and individuals the authority to take part in decisions that have an impact on their daily lives.

State security is criticized for favoring the interests of the state over those of people and communities, which some claim might result in authoritarianism and disrespect for human rights. On the other hand, proponents of human security support an all-encompassing strategy that takes into account the various demands and vulnerabilities of individuals everywhere.

Importance of Human Rights Approach and Evacuation Missions

Individuals' rights and security were the main topics of discussion in earlier conversations. A human rights approach to development and security has, nonetheless, become more prevalent and is now regarded as an essential part of the larger idea of human security. Though the concept of

human security was not well known until recently, there is a rising realization that development plans need to be grounded on the principles of purpose and equality, but also human rights. The human rights approach to development has been aggressively supported by international organizations such as the United Nations, which emphasize that development is more than just economic advancement. It includes aspects that are social, cultural, political, civic, and psychological, all of which are frequently overlooked when progress is just seen from an economic perspective. These non-economic factors are recognized by the human rights approach, which promotes a development paradigm that promotes human security.

Ensuring the right to basic education, for example, guarantees disadvantaged communities the information they need to obtain livelihoods, which in turn improves human security. This viewpoint on human development stands in sharp contrast to methods that have a single focus on economic progress. The human rights approach to development promotes a complete and wellbalanced social advancement that makes a major contribution to human security. Groups like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) promote balanced development by focusing on aspects like equity and respect for human rights, as opposed to growth that primarily aims to increase the disparity between various classes and groups.

For instance, the human rights approach states that to guarantee the participation of impacted parties in the development process, including their families, appropriate rehabilitation and compensation must be given. In a similar vein, this paradigm addresses problems including gender discrimination and labor exploitation. This method helps development organizations create and carry out more comprehensive development plans that put human security first and protect society's most vulnerable groups. Additionally, it guarantees that welfare and equity are

given priority in developmental endeavors, reflecting the values of human rights and their implementation in administrative procedures.

International Humanitarian Laws and Human Security

Human rights are inalienable privileges bestowed upon every person only based on their humanity, without regard to social standing or membership in any particular group. They are only restricted by abiding by the law, like in the instance of convicted criminals losing some rights, and cannot be gained. Human rights are the property of individuals, and nations and other institutions are required to uphold, defend, and respect them. Respect means not breaking the law; protection means not letting others break the law; and fulfillment means taking action to guarantee people may exercise their rights.

In addition, human rights are unalienable, which means that the state cannot take them away unless it does so legally or in an emergency. The UN International Bill of Rights, which consists of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), established the international human rights framework more than 40 years before talks on human security. Economic, social, and cultural rights include the freedom to work and education, while civil and political rights include the right to a fair trial and the ability to vote. (Ibid, 2012 pp.93).

Human rights were once intended to protect people from state abuse, but they have now expanded to include defense against non-state actors. A burgeoning normative framework highlights protection against discrimination and abuse within families and communities and

extends human rights duties to multinational enterprises and social groups. States cannot favor some human rights over others and are required to protect all human rights equally. Some rights are unalienable, such as the prohibition on torture, even in the event of an emergency. All citizen's rights must be protected by states without exception, and those who violate their rights must have access to legal recourse. But even as citizens of another state, stateless people sometimes lack protection, and migrants struggle to defend their rights. Human security extends state obligations to non-citizens, albeit more in theory than in reality; this is a change from the international human rights regime's mostly citizen-centric orientation.

Critics contend that despite its vast scope, the legal framework on human rights may not have a substantial practical influence. However, it creates a strong global civil society movement that holds businesses, governments, and international organizations responsible. International organizations monitor state compliance and push for reform despite the lack of effective enforcement tools, strengthening the normative authority of human rights on a global scale. The efficacy of the human rights framework, which is the cornerstone of global justice, depends on larger institutional and cultural commitments to protect and enforce these rights everywhere (Ibid).

CHAPTER 3

EVACUATION MISSION: OPERATION GANGA, OPERATION

SAMUDRA SETU AND VANDE BHARATH

India's Position on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

The protracted confrontation between Russia and Ukraine has captured international attention, and countries are debating how to react. India finds itself in a precarious situation because of its strategic objectives in preserving stability and its historical links to Russia. India's complex response to this situation in its formal pronouncements about the conflict, India has cautiously stayed neutral. Ever since Russian soldiers invaded Ukraine in late February, New Delhi has refrained from voting at the UN against Russia's activities. India has emphasized its adherence to sovereignty and territorial integrity while reserving direct blame for Moscow despite the conflict's growing intensity.

India is under pressure to clarify its position in light of recent developments. The tragedy of hundreds of Indian students awaiting evacuation and the death of an Indian student in Kharkiv, Ukraine, have brought the war closer to home. The Indian government has made diplomatic efforts, meeting with Presidents Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine and Vladimir Putin of Russia. He has demanded that any acts of violence end right away. But when other countries take a stronger stance, India's votes against UN resolutions denouncing Russia's activities have drawn criticism. India has surprised the European Union with its delicate balancing act. The envoys of the European Union and the Ukrainians in New Delhi have pushed India to take a more assertive stance. The current European Union president, Emmanuel Macron of France, has also

communicated with Modi on the issue. France has been making concerted efforts to defuse the situation. India is in a unique position to play a key role in mediating a resolution to the crisis because it is friends with both the West and Russia.

India's circumstance is a reflection of its intricate geopolitical environment. It aims to keep its historical connections with Russia intact without upsetting its partners in the West. India's position may need to change as the situation develops. Finding a peaceful settlement will likely still be difficult, but India's position as a link between the East and the West may help. India's reaction to the war between Russia and Ukraine highlights the complexities of diplomacy and the necessity to strike a balance between national interests and international concerns. India's position will change as long as the crisis lasts, and its choices will determine how this crucial geopolitical moment plays out.

It started when Russia had over a hundred thousand troops deployed on three sides of Ukraine covering the North & East borders of Russia and Belarus and the threat of a massive invasion from Russia created havoc in the world. Students never expected the war will take place in their daily educational life. Thus, thousands of students started raising concerns for their lives. Before the war took place around 5 months before i.e. 2021, October a disturbance at the border, and the Western press also alerts that yes some kind of activities were happening there (Partha Satpathy, Former Ambassador of India to Ukraine). Then 30 days before the war i.e. around 2022, January all the Indian embassies became active and started collecting the databases of the students (Dr. S. Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs). To collect this data, the government created a virtual meeting and informed students to kindly register themselves in a portal named ‘_Student Registration Portal – Ministry of External Affairs’. After registration the data shocked the Indian embassy, it revealed three important issues – first around 22,500 students were studying in

Ukraine which are registered or portal. Secondly, 40% of students lived in East Ukraine which is closer to Russia's border, and 40% in West Ukraine which was far away from the Russian border and a comparatively much safer place. And the rest of 20% from other parts of the country. In February Indian government took an anticipatory action and on the 15th of February issued an advisory – —Given uncertainties of the current situation in Ukraine, Indian nationals in Ukraine, particularly students whose stay is not essential, may consider leaving temporarily. Indian nationals are also advised to avoid all non-essential travel to and within Ukraine. (The Print, 2024). Also, Also, India's External Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar mentioned in a recorded interview that a lot of students don't want to leave the country because of their academic year, the reason is that universities warned students if they leave they'll lose their academic year and these colleges were not ready to conduct online classes. So it was their problem as well. Because of the students who invested lots of capital for education especially the middle-class students who took loans for education.

Looking into these matters Indian embassy Opened 24-hour hotlines for help and in New Delhi a control room was set up with 20 officers. On 18th February the embassy of India in Kyiv sent an advisory that Air India will operate three flights between India-Ukraine (Boryspil International Airport) and India on 22nd, 24th, and 26th February 2022. (Twitter 2022). The first Air India flight carrying around 242 Indian students landed in New Delhi. Dr. S Jaishankar states around 4000 students were evacuated before 24th February (Ibid).

On 24th Feb 2022, the world was shocked because Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. India's main concern was for their Indian students who were studying in Ukraine. When the war broke out a notice was issued that all air space above Russia had been closed off.

Through satellite telephone India connected the AirIndia Aircraft which was supposed to bring students as per the dates given above and order them to come back to India. When students were waiting for the airplane at the same time bombing started near the airport even on the runway bombing took place (Arshaan Shaikh, Medical student, Ahmednagar Maharashtra). In the past Indian government always being responsive government for their citizens' safety during war and disaster zones in different parts of the world. To evacuate and save their citizens, the government decided to launch India's new evacuation mission under the code-named 'OPERATION GANGA', "The idea behind the naming was that just the way Ganga is called Ma Ganga, it protects us, similarly this rescue Operation was to protect and bring back its children to safety," (Senior Union Minister told ANI). The Prime Minister's Office called a meeting and discussed what could be done to bring India's diaspora back. To assure their parents, the government informed bureaucracy (Public Servants) to meet every concerned family who assured support from the government of India. The government has set up a control room and an email ID (situationroom@mea.gov.in) and WhatsApp number were provided to assist the victims in Ukraine. Over the years India has developed good relations with other European nations which helped India to have mutual a understanding. It helps to make a green corridor in India's interest, but the establishment of a green corridor is not an easy task but too difficult and risky because to building trust between two Operation posing nations to ceasefire and allow Operation to move out of the conflict areas through the green corridor. Hardeep Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India mentioned in an interview "There has been a process of evacuation processes earlier did you take that seriously that the head of the government picked up a phone and spoke I don't know, I am not aware, but I do know that my Prime Minister did it" (HISTORYTV18, 2023). The system started

working on the 24th of February itself, the strategy was to evacuate Indians from the five neighbouring countries of Ukraine i.e. Poland Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and later Moldova. Indian government contacted these countries as soon as possible because the government knew from these countries only most of the Operations would move out of the country (Ibid). But the problem was that not only our Indian students even though many almost thousands of Operation from other countries and Ukrainians as well who were trying to protect their life and their loved ones were moving from the condition. After a difficult time through the Romanian border first time, 470 Indians exited Ukraine and entered the Romanian nation safely through the border. On 26th of February was the day of Indians because the first flight flew out and Operation Ganga took place. On the next day i.e. 27th February the second evacuation mission took place as India landed back in India with a total of 250 Indians from Bucharest to Delhi at around 3:00, the evacuation process aimed to ensure the safety and well-being of Indian nationals caught in the crisis (Indian Express, 2022). One can go through the emotional videos circulated on YouTube or various official news channels. For evacuating as a part of the pre-planning strategy India's embassy commissioned railways and buses to move them to safe places. There were not only Indians who were stuck in Ukraine even though Operation from other countries as well like from Africa, Turkey, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. We always heard India stands for its idea of —Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which means the whole world is one family. And during Operation Ganga India proved it correct. The government informed their embassies to help and evacuate the non-Indians especially from the neighboring countries with Indian citizens as well. (Ibid). There are videos circulated on the internet where students from other countries like Pakistan, thank India for saving their lives. India's effort to rescue individuals, including citizens of Bangladesh and Pakistan, in conflict-ridden Ukraine as part of its 'Operation Ganga' evacuation mission.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's praise for India's rescue of 9 Bangladeshi nationals underscores the collaborative nature of humanitarian efforts amidst global crises. The testimonial from a Pakistani student, Asma Shafique, expressing gratitude towards the Indian government and Prime Minister Modi for their support in facilitating her evacuation. She mentioned thanks to the Indian Prime Minister for his assistance, as well as the Indian embassy in Kyiv for helping them through this very challenging circumstance because of the Indian embassy, she was able to return home safely.

It reflects the effectiveness of diplomatic channels and demonstrates the significance of international cooperation during times of adversity. Prime Minister Modi's acknowledgment of India's growing global influence through successful evacuation. The operation further emphasizes the country's proactive stance and its evolving role in global affairs. (WIONews.2024). This shows how much India is concerned with human security and promotes the ideology of Operation Centred. The successful evacuation of Indian student Harjot Singh from the conflict-ridden Ukrainian capital of Kyiv stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the Indian embassy in Ukraine and the Indian Air Force. Harjot's ordeal, having sustained multiple gunshot wounds, underscores the grave risks faced by individuals caught amid the Ukraine-Russia war. The swift and coordinated response to evacuate Indian citizens from Ukraine's neighboring countries reflects the proactive measures taken by the Indian government to ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens amidst the escalating crisis (The New Indian Expres.2022). This poignant episode serves as a poignant reminder of the human impact of geopolitical conflicts and the imperative of international cooperation in safeguarding the lives of individuals embroiled in such tumultuous circumstances.

Moving ahead, the government decided to send four Union Minister to lead the evacuating team;

Jyotiraditya Scindia (Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, Government of India) in Romania and Moldova, Kiran Rijju (Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India) in Slovakia, Hardeep Puri (Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India) in Hungary and General (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh (Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation, Government of India) in Poland.

India's decision to send four Union ministers as special envoys to neighboring countries of Ukraine to coordinate and expedite the evacuation of Indian nationals, particularly students, amidst the escalating conflict. The move comes in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin putting nuclear forces on high alert. The Indian government is concerned for the safety and security of Indian citizens in the war zone and its efforts to accelerate the evacuation process

(LiveMint.2022). On 1st March special envoys of four ministers reached their respective positions and began oversee the rescue Operation. But at the same time evacuation efforts from conflict zone Ukraine have gained momentum, when with additional Indian airlines, including IndiGo, Air India Express, and SpiceJet, joined Air India in bringing back Indian nationals.

While Air India has been deploying wide-body Boeing 787 aircraft. Air India Express operated a Boeing 737 from Mumbai to Bucharest. IndiGo Operated two evacuation flights using A321 aircraft, and SpiceJet Operated an evacuation flight to Budapest using its Boeing 737 MAX. The airlines are closely coordinated with the government to support further evacuation flights. India had made arrangements for the safe return of its citizens from Ukraine via neighboring countries like Romania, Poland, and Hungary. But the major question was how to move them safely from Ukraine to the neighboring countries. Arranging buses and vehicles for them was also challenging to the government but the Indian embassy was able to manage vehicles which helped Operation to reach the Ukraine border from a long distance. On social

media one could find the students' interviews while moving to the border in that some of the students mentioned how they were treated much more politely compared to the other countries' vehicles, students mentioned they display the Indian flags on the buses and Ukrainian military allowed them to move ahead without any checking even some students from other countries as well display the Indian national flag which helped them for moving. Indian students stranded in Ukraine are advised to carry the national flag on their vehicles for safety. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy stated that the Indian government has taken measures to ensure their safe entry into neighboring countries. The government has asked students to prominently display the Indian flag on their vehicles, as Russia has assured not to take any action against Indian students. The first flight with 219 Indian nationals has taken off from Romania to Mumbai. The Indian Embassy in Kyiv has advised Indian citizens against moving to border checkpoints without prior coordination with government officials due to the sensitive situation. The Russian military's advance in Ukraine's capital city has led to explosions, and discussions between Ukraine and Russia for talks are reportedly underway (The Economic Times, 2022).

Once the Indians arrived at the border Siret of Romania they used to travel by bus to the Bucharest shelter camp which is around 500 km distance. Indian Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia (Union Minister for Civil Aviation & Steel, Government of India) discussed with the Romanian ambassador whether they have any airport close to the border, and after the then government indicated the domestic airport named Suceava which International Airport report So with Opened it for international evacuation purposes (Ibid). _From crossing the border to evacuating them throughout the process government provides them tag number covering data like from which Indian state they domicile then this tag number is identified by their respective states and received accordingly by the state government at the Delhi or Mumbai Airport' mentioned by

Jyotiraditya Scindia (Ibid).

The entire execution plan was not easy to execute, while evacuating them throughout the process the major concern was to manage their stays, food, and medical aids for these thousands of Operations. So, to help them many Non-Residents Of India (NRI) came on the stage and tried to help them like Amit Lath (Vice President, Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry) and Chandramohan Nallur (Business Relations Director, Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce). Even BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha played an important role in humanitarian efforts during the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated and praised the volunteer groups, including BAPS, for their emergency response to the crisis. The involvement of BAPS volunteers from various countries, including the UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Poland, and the USA. These volunteers provided hot vegetarian meals to evacuees of all faiths and nationalities, as well as emotional care and comfort to the refugees (BAPS, 2022). Not only that even though the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is also actively involved in humanitarian assistance by distributing food to individuals stranded on the borders due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, indicating the organization's dedication to providing aid during this crisis. This initiative serves as a testament to ISKCON's commitment to alleviating the suffering of those affected by the conflict by taking proactive steps to provide meals to those in need. The distribution of food by ISKCON at the borders is part of a broader effort to assist those impacted by the conflict, showcasing the organization's comprehensive approach to providing support. By incorporating food distribution into its overall response strategy, ISKCON demonstrates a holistic approach to addressing the various challenges arising from the Ukraine-Russia war. The ISKCON's involvement in distributing food to stranded individuals at the borders is highlighted as a

substantial contribution to humanitarian relief efforts in the context of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The organization's proactive support reflects its fundamental values of compassion and service to humanity, positioning it as a compassionate and proactive participant in the humanitarian response to the conflict (News18, 2024).

While executing the evacuation Operation, news of the untimely demise of Indian student Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar, who was murdered by shelling in Kharkiv, Ukraine, brings to light the terrible consequences of fighting on defenseless citizens caught in the crossfire. Naveen's premature passing is not just a statistic; his family, friends, and the community at large are grieving sincerely over his loss. His life was unexpectedly cut short as a young student pursuing his ambitions of further education, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of conflict and its terrible impact on those with talent and aspirations (Indian Express, 2022).

The tragic death of the Indian Student named Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar

The tragic death of an Indian student named Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar highlighted the vulnerability of international students abroad. It brings the attention of the government to the safety and security of the international students studying in various education institutions under their control. It has drawn strong criticism and demands for action to Operation disasters of this kind from happening again. As authorities pursue justice for Naveen and strive to improve the safety and security of Indian Operation living or studying in Ukraine, diplomatic initiatives between India and Ukraine may pick up steam. Naveen's passing also emphasizes how critical it is to settle disputes amicably and bring stability back to areas that are experiencing unrest and violence. It calls on the international community to step up efforts in the areas of diplomacy, communication, and conflict resolution as a sobering reminder of the misery that wars and armed

conflicts cause to Operation. Naveen's passing may provoke conversations about the larger ramifications of international wars and the necessity of promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, and understanding in an increasingly linked world, in addition to the immediate sadness and fury. Essentially, the terrible murder of Naveen Shekharappa Gyanagoudar during the shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine, strikes a deep chord, acting as a sobering reminder of the human cost of war and the pressing necessity for coordinated measures to operation similar needless deaths in the future (Indian Express, 2022).

Another significant issue arose after Russia invaded the eastern region of Ukraine, turning it into a combat zone. India thus chose to provide a secure route for the preparation of evacuation. Russia intends to establish a humanitarian corridor to ensure the safe return of Indian citizens who have been stranded in Ukraine as a result of the ongoing conflict. The Russian ambassador to India, Denis Alipov, stated that the route had been Operation in response to India's attempts to evacuate its citizens from the war zone. To protect its nationals who are caught in the crossfire, India has taken the initiative to initiate contact with significant parties like Russia and Ukraine. This most recent move demonstrates Russia's commitment to facilitating the evacuation of Indian citizens, mirroring India's diplomatic efforts to ensure the safe return of its citizens during the Ukraine crisis.

Even though by 3rd March 2022 India evacuated almost 18,000 students, there was a big challenge for the Indian government from the towns named Kharkiv and Sumy. Sumy is just 30 miles of distance from the Russian border and held about 600 students in bunkers with very little operation and food and water. They dealt with a serious humanitarian situation as a result of the damage to essential infrastructure, such as the thermal power plant, and ongoing water and energy shortages. They suffer severe stress as a result of having to melt snow for drinking water

and running into bunkers to escape continuous bombardment and bombings. Timely evacuation preparations are hampered by bureaucratic obstacles and the unstable security environment, even with the efforts of the Indian government. According to the student's experiences, they are afraid and frustrated while waiting for help, and poor communication just makes things worse. The untimely demise of an Indian student underscores the pressing need for evacuation endeavors yet the students continue to be marooned, encountering mounting violence and logistical obstacles in their quest to reach more secure areas (Zaini Majeed, 2022). Even videos are circulated on the internet where these students discuss their problems and share the recorded videos. One of the videos was uploaded by Nasir Khuehami's Twitter which was shared by the Livemint news website (Ibid). After a day, almost 600 or so Indian students in the northern Ukrainian city of Sumy have all been evacuated. About 600 Operations have been evacuated from Sumy in all, 20 Indians with work permits and 580 pupils. 17 other nationalities were evacuated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Nepal. When Indian authorities were sent to the eastern region of Ukraine, they organized buses and other vehicles to help with the evacuation of the students who had taken refuge in bunkers and campuses. The announcement of an official team stationed in Poltava City was made by the Indian embassy in Kyiv. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's phone conversations with Vladimir Putin of Russia and Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, during which Putin pledged help in the evacuation of Indians from Sumy, there was a large evacuation effort. India carried out the evacuation despite Russian forces bombarding Sumy, having pleaded with Russian and Ukrainian officials for a truce to guarantee the safety of the evacuation procedure (Hindustan Times 2024). Around 14 buses proudly displaying the Indian tricolor picked up Indian students from Sumy towards the safe zone Poltava from where later they were evacuated.

In an interview, Asif Tariq (Medical student, Ukraine, Baramulla Kashmir) mentioned "Our evacuation was one of the best evacuations which were impossible because of the continuous conflict". While Mohd Mahtab Raza (Medical Student, in Ukraine) mentioned "The flight I came on was the last flight, which was an army flight, so it was an even prouder moment for us" (Ibid). In that last army flight students had been shown chanting 'Jai Hindh' and 'Bharath Mata ki Jai' – on circulated videos. And the last flight landed on the Indian Air Force base and almost 22,500 Operations were evacuated from the warzone under the code-named 'Operation Ganga'. It shows how the Indian government is concerned about the spread of diaspora throughout the world and what India is capable of doing for their concerned citizens. Within 39 days, India is the only country to have evacuated more than 22,500 of its citizens from an active war zone. Apart from Indians, 147 foreign nationals from 18 countries were rescued too and for these 90 flights were put into action for the task. This evacuation Operation could be considered as the highest civilian evacuation from a war zone ever done by any country.

Pictures of Evacuation Operation



Fig. 3.1: Pictures of welcoming students from conflict zones



Fig. 3.2: Pictures shows the Evacuees in the Gujarat Airport



Fig. 3.3: This is the Twitter handle set up to assist in evacuation of Indians from Ukraine

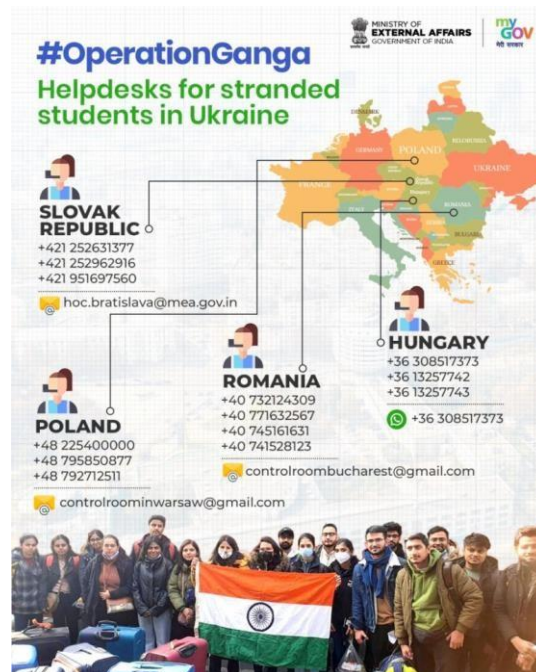


Fig. 3.4: This are the Helpline numbers provided to the students



Fig. 3.5: This picture shows the welcoming students by India and Hungary Embassy

Source: Retrieved from Snapshot of India, 2022 (URL, <https://www.hcilondon.gov.in/docs/1646649693Snapshot%20of%20India%20-%203%20March%202022.pdf>)



Fig. 3.6 (a)



Fig. 3.6 (b)

Fig. 3.6 and Fig. 3.7: Photographs of the last flight carrying Evacuees from the conflict zone to India

Source: Images retrieved from Hindustan Times, (URL https://images.hindustantimes.com/img/2022/03/10/550x309/WhatsApp_Image_2022-0310_at_10.08.38_AM_1646889159382_1646889243843.jpeg)

Operation Samudra Setu And Vande Bharath

COVID-19 & Global Pandemic

Global transportation has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, which has brought about a time of difficulties and Operational complications, especially for countries like India. Governments from all around the world have rushed to put in place comprehensive measures to stop the virus's spread, including severe limitations on travel abroad, such as entrance prohibitions, obligatory quarantines, and border closures. The worldwide movement of numerous persons has been disturbed by these extraordinary measures, leaving them trapped in distant locations and forcing governments to launch specialized repatriation efforts.

India, which has a sizable diaspora and a sizable number of out-of-country migrants, is currently attempting to manage the complex effects of the epidemic on its nationals living outside. The difficulties experienced by Indians who are trapped in different parts of the world have been made much more difficult by the strict lockdown measures and economic unrest within the nation. Many found themselves navigating uncharted territory, stuck between the complexity of international travel regulations and the necessity of getting home, with little support available for their repatriation. The Indian government responded to the issue by launching special initiatives to help its residents who were stuck abroad. To aid with their return, evacuation flights were arranged, however there were resource and logistical obstacles. Unfortunately, the crisis's overwhelming Operation and the difficulties in organizing such an extensive repatriation Operation presented serious obstacles, making it impossible in certain cases to provide all impacted individuals with the necessary help.

The situation faced by Indian migrants during the COVID-19 epidemic is a story of perseverance and suffering as they face obstacles to economic reintegration, difficulties associated with repatriation, and the reality of reverse migration. With the burden of reintegrating into an economy already struggling to recover from the epidemic, a large number of irregular migrant workers fled the country as a result of the border restrictions and state-wide lockdown. Their difficulties were made worse by stigmatization, prejudice, and subpar facilities, which exposed the weaknesses that come with being a migrant.

Indian migrants abroad encountered a unique combination of difficulties, from the financial strains of testing and quarantine requirements to cases of salary theft and abuse. Even though the repatriation procedure was started with the greatest of intentions, many stranded persons' returns were delayed by administrative and logistical obstacles. Furthermore, in a post-COVID world characterized by uncertainty and volatility, the economic reintegration of returning migrants—particularly low-skilled workers—posed serious obstacles.

How domestic and foreign migrants were treated differently and how policies were responded to highlight the difficulties in meeting the demands of such a diverse migrant community. Internal migrants were provided with state-sponsored assistance, while foreign migrants were frequently left to handle the difficulties of repatriation on their own, hampered by logistical and financial limitations. The persistence of issues underscores the need for more comprehensive and inclusive support structures, even in the face of government initiatives like the Vande Bharat Mission, which sought to expedite the return of Indian Operation who were stuck overseas.

Amidst these difficulties, the pandemic has highlighted the gendered dimensions of migrant experiences, with women workers disproportionately affected by job losses and growing gaps.

The necessity for a more gender-responsive approach to policy-making and implementation is highlighted by the invisible nature of women migrant workers and their difficulties obtaining social safety programs. The COVID-19 epidemic has had a profound impact on international mobility, altering the nature of movement and drawing attention to the vulnerabilities that come with being a migrant. It is crucial to take a comprehensive and inclusive approach to address the many needs of migratory populations as nations negotiate the challenges of recovery and reconstruction to ensure their well-being and resilience in the face of future catastrophes.

Evacuation Mission: Vande Bharath & Operation Samudra Setu

Due to lockdowns and travel restrictions, the COVID-19 epidemic has posed an unprecedented problem to governments globally, requiring the evacuation of residents who have become stuck overseas. Operation Samudra Setu and the Vande Bharat Mission are the two main Operations that the Indian government launched in reaction to this catastrophe, and it did so quickly and thoroughly. These efforts demonstrated a comprehensive effort towards a significant humanitarian return and were directed at the repatriation of Indian Operation who were stuck overseas. India launched humanitarian corridors and evacuation planes in response to the worldwide operation brought on by the coronavirus lockdown, demonstrating the country's will to protect its Operation in these historic times. This analysis goes into the specifics of this massive evacuation Operation, looking at the critical roles that the Indian Navy and other government agencies played in safely returning foreign nationals and members of the Indian diaspora. It also examines the logistical difficulties encountered and the effects this Operation had on the evacuees and India's relations with its diaspora (The Hindu, 2020).

The Indian government launched two major initiatives, the Vande Bharat Mission and Operation Samudra Setu, to repatriate its nationals who were left behind in foreign countries as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown. This was not India's first experience with mass evacuations; in 1990, for example, more than a lakh Indians were evacuated from Kuwait at the start of the Gulf War. Similar evacuation efforts, like Operation Sukoon in 2006 (Beirut) and Operation Rahat in 2015 (Yemen), have previously been planned by the Indian Navy. The government had several difficulties in carrying out these activities, including the health crisis brought on by COVID-19, financial limitations, and the logistical complexities of handling the surge of residents returning from overseas. In direct reaction to the epidemic, Operation Samudra Setu and Vande Bharat were initiated, and they progressed through significant turning points. 64 planes were deployed starting on May 7, 2020, which made it possible for almost 15,000 Indian nationals to return home. At the same time, INS Magar and INS Jalashwa were sent to the Maldives to assist with evacuation efforts. In connection with the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM), which became the largest-scale voluntary evacuation effort during the coronavirus-related travel restrictions, these efforts demonstrated India's dedication to protecting its Operation. Notably, VBM's Operation exceeded the 1,77,000-person airlift that occurred in the past during the start of the Gulf War in 1990 (The Hindu, 2022).

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic's problems, the Indian government recognizes its moral obligation to safeguard its citizens both at home and abroad. The Vande Bharat Mission was initiated to repatriate Indian citizens who were left behind abroad because of travel restrictions. As part of this nationwide endeavor, the Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu simultaneously, displaying excellent cooperation among government departments and agencies. The choice to send warships for repatriation is indicative of India's slow shift away from its

historical "sea-blindness" and toward making the most of its naval resources. Because warships are naturally equipped with features like access, mobility, lift capacity, and adaptability, they may be used for a variety of tasks, such as humanitarian relief and disaster aid (HADR) and noncombatant evacuation Operations (NCEO). Warships outfitted with integral medical facilities, such as well-stocked sick bays staffed by qualified medical professionals, guarantee the safety and health of both crew and repatriates. The Indian Navy's proficiency and readiness are demonstrated by Operation Samudra Setu, in which vessels such as INS Jalashwa enable the accomplishment of successful repatriation Operations. A healthy baby was delivered onboard INS Jalashwa, demonstrating the Navy's dedication to providing basic medical facilities and the high caliber of medical care given during the mission. During the first phase of Operation Samudra Setu, four Indian naval ships were sent to perform missions that were intended to return Indians who had gotten stranded abroad to be safely repatriated. In light of everything, Operation Samudra Setu highlights the importance of the Indian Navy as a major actor in national efforts to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic's consequences and safeguard the welfare of Indian citizens throughout the globe (Kumar & Narayanan, 2020).

Logistical support during the evacuation mission

When comparing sea and air repatriation, it becomes clear why using warships for evacuation missions such as Operation Samudra Setu is advantageous. Warships are ideally suited for the efficient and timely completion of repatriation Operations, particularly in situations requiring short notice, because of their rapid deployment, independence from substantial logistical support,

and strong staying power. The warships can house more Operations and offer superior security due to their ability to conduct amphibious Operations, assuring protection from possible threats throughout the repatriation process.

Air travel requires significant facilities and many permissions in terms of infrastructure and procedural requirements, which leads to lengthier evacuation periods and more complex logistics. On the other hand, battleships require less outside help due to their self-sufficient sailors and onboard medical facilities, which limits their infrastructure requirements to an Operation jetty with acceptable sea depth. With warships removing 900 persons in around 36 hours, this simplified approach allows for speedier evacuation periods compared to air repatriation (Oneindia, (n.d.)). Such missions require close civil-military collaboration, and the Indian Navy Operation rates diplomatically and strategically to guarantee a smooth execution. Enhanced Operational efficacy and mitigation of possible problems, such as hostility towards repatriation attempts, may be achieved through the utilization of Maritime Domain Awareness and diplomatic support.

Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, there was a possibility of infection on board, therefore careful planning was needed to protect both crew and repatriates. Strict on-board procedures were put in place to reduce the danger of transmission and guarantee the Operation's success, including crew separation, medical examinations, and improved sanitary measures. Overall, the utilization of warships for repatriation Operations offers numerous advantages, including rapid deployment, streamlined logistics, enhanced security, and effective risk mitigation measures. Operation Samudra Setu exemplifies the Indian Navy's capability and commitment to safeguarding the welfare of Indian citizens abroad during times of crisis.

India's Response to COVID-19

India stands apart from other countries due to its proactive deployment of naval vessels for humanitarian help during the COVID-19 epidemic. India aggressively deployed its warships to offer vital support to far-flung littoral and island states in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), while a more developed navy was limiting their deployments. Apart from the Operation of repatriation under Operation Samudra Setu, INS Kesari has been assigned to transport essential medical supplies and food items to nations such as the Maldives, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, and Mauritius. In line with its geopolitical tenet of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), this highlights India's function as a regional "First Responder" and strengthens its reputation as a security supplier in the IOR. Legally speaking, Operation Samudra Setu is carried out while taking into account Indian domestic laws, customary international law, the law of the sea, and international maritime law. The Operation, which is largely focused on non-combatant evacuation, guarantees adherence to legal norms even in situations where emotions are high. Even if the participating governments have given their approval for the Operation to be carried out, both shore-based planning personnel and seagoing commanders must have a clear awareness of the legal intricacies. For example, because the ports in question are under the sovereign sovereignty of the coastal states, international maritime law requires berthing consent before removing Operation. This meticulous observance of legal requirements highlights India's dedication to providing humanitarian aid while upholding international legal frameworks (Ibid).

Launched of Vande Bharat Mission

Similar to Operation Samudra Setu, the Vande Bharat Mission is an extensive attempt to return Indian nationals who have become stuck overseas. It was started by the Indian government in reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak. Phased operations ensure efficient repatriation while attending to the varied needs of stranded individuals across various regions. The mission gives priority to citizens in distress, including laborers, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with medical emergencies. Additionally, students and workers who have lost their jobs are included in the priority groups. The Vande Bharat Mission is centered on collaboration, with India leading the charge in organizing activities with the US, UK, UAE, Qatar, and other nations. This collaborative effort, involving several ministries and state organizations, demonstrates a coherent and coordinated strategy for repatriation operations. The mission has continued despite obstacles including arranging landing permits, making sure crew members have enough personal protective equipment, and overseeing quarantine facilities. Up to July 8, 2020, around 6,61,352 Indians have been successfully returned through cooperation with airlines, airports, and foreign governments. In addition to paying for their tickets which vary in price depending on the destination passengers must also comply with safety regulations by spending a minimum of 14 days in quarantine after arriving in India (Ibid).

Indian Diaspora and the COVID 19

The Indian government faced several difficulties in carrying out Operation Samudra Setu and the Vande Bharat Mission, including budgetary limitations, intricate logistical planning, diplomatic nuances, and obstacle costal and quarantine, which prompted the government to step in and

provide financial support. To successfully reduce health hazards, logistical issues like maintaining social distance and overseeing quarantine facilities required careful planning and implementation. Additionally challenging were the communications with passengers and collaborating with other governments, which called for diplomatic dexterity and efficient communication techniques. The government implemented several strategies to deal with these issues, such as offering financial assistance to cover the costs of quarantine, giving priority to those who need to return, carrying out thorough medical examinations, arranging reasonable flight prices, and guaranteeing complete safety precautions during the return process. These efforts demonstrated India's proactive attitude in handling issues during crises and illustrated the country's dedication to the welfare of its diaspora, albeit incurring criticism about commercial elements and reaction delays (Shergill, 2020).

The government's commitment to the welfare of its nationals living overseas is evident in the influence that Operation Samudra Setu and the Vande Bharat Mission have had on India's connections with its diaspora. India has cemented its reputation as a responsible and compassionate nation on the international front by giving priority to those in need and making accommodations for foreign visitors. It is anticipated that the accomplishment of these missions will have a positive diplomatic impact, improving India's standing internationally and promoting closer bilateral ties with other nations. All things considered, these efforts demonstrated India's dedication to the well-being of its people and its proactive approach to resolving issues during emergencies.

Successful Returns of the Indian Diaspora

The successful return of 3,992 Indian residents to their country of origin by sea, Operation Samudra Setu, which was initiated on May 5, 2020, as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian people stuck overseas during the COVID-19 epidemic, has come to a close. With a duration of more than 55 days and a seaward distance of over 23,000 kilometers, the Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa, Airavat, Shardul, and Magar actively participated in Operations. The Indian Navy has previously carried out comparable evacuation operations, such as Operation Sukoon in 2006 (Beirut) and Operation Rahat in 2015 (Yemen), which are being built upon by this project. To effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent infection outbreaks on board ships, the Indian Navy has devised stringent medical and safety standards that are specifically designed for the unique operating environment of the boats participating in Operation Samudra Setu. Special accommodations, including furnished medical facilities and amenities for the evacuees, were made on board the ships to guarantee compliance with COVID19-related social distancing requirements. A noteworthy event that brought attention to the unique conditions of the evacuation was the birth of a newborn boy on board INS Jalashwa on International Mother's Day by one of the passengers, Mrs. Sonia Jacob (Deccan Herald.2020).

Apart from the evacuation endeavors, the Indian Navy showcased its adaptability by utilizing its amphibious sea-lift vessels for Operation Samudra Setu, therefore augmenting the adaptability and expansibility of these diverse platforms. Concurrently, the Kesari Landing Ship (Tank) embarked on 'Mission SAGAR', transporting medical supplies and food aid, including ayurvedic medications, to the Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros Islands, and Seychelles. This allencompassing strategy highlights the Indian Navy's dedication to providing humanitarian aid to surrounding nations in addition to repatriating nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs,

Ministry of Home Affairs, health authorities, and several other central and state government agencies worked closely together to ensure the smooth implementation of Operation Samudra Setu. This cooperative endeavor demonstrates the government's steadfast commitment to the security and welfare of its nationals, both domestically and internationally, in the face of the extraordinary difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic.

Operation Samudra Setu has demonstrated the Indian Navy's exceptional agility and proactive stance in resolving humanitarian problems, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike some other nations, India has shown its dedication to regional peace and security by freely employing its naval resources for humanitarian relief. By offering support to remote island nations in the Indian Ocean area, the Indian Navy has proven that it is a reliable 'First Responder' in times of need. This operation bolsters India's standing as a net security provider in the region and supports the country's wider SAGAR Operation, which prioritizes the pursuit of peace and prosperity for all parties involved in the Indian Ocean Region. All things considered, Operation Samudra Setu highlights the Indian Navy's dedication to upholding its constitutional role of safeguarding the social welfare of the Indian Operation while demonstrating how the Navy can significantly contribute to regional security.

Pictures of Evacuation Mission



Fig.3.7 (a)



Fig. 3.7 (b)

**Fig.3.7 (a) and Fig. 3.7 (b): Pictures of Mission Vande Bharath and
Operation Samudra Setu**

Source: The image retrieved from Indian Navy Evacuating Indians (URL
https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/sites/default/files/MISC/edit8_3.jpg)

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

The chapter focuses on the analysis of the data collected from primary and secondary sources. A structured questionnaire was used to gather the data. The professor's views on the issues provided insights into the study.

Using a Google form as a means of gathering data made it easier to obtain organized and consistent answers from well-known political scientists. The responders offered their viewpoints on India's rescue operations. The responses' structured format made it easy to classify the data in an organized manner, which prepared the way for a thorough thematic analysis. The gathered data is enhanced by in-person interactions with three professors who among them two also submit the Google form as well. This one-on-one conversation provides complex viewpoints that would not have been recorded using the Google form. Combining these insights with organized answers improves the qualitative depth of the study and offers a complex perspective. By combining the answers from the respondents with those from in-person interactions, a strong methodological framework for analysis is gathered. This chapter delves into the complexities of India's evacuation operations by examining the relationship between foreign affairs, diplomacy, and crisis management through the combination of gathered data.

This chapter highlights the dissertation by providing a thorough examination of the professor's findings and professional viewpoints that support the critical assessment of India's evacuation operations. The integration of responses provides an advanced understanding of the objectives,

strategies, challenges, and outcomes associated with these tasks, substantially expanding the body of existing research in this area. During the analysis process, the data was retrieved from Google form through the structured questionnaire. When analyzing the responses from the Google form, it's important to approach the data in a structured and systematic manner. Start by organizing the questions into themes based on their content. This thematic analysis allowed the identification of various viewpoints or perspectives that the respondents have addressed which provides an insightful analysis of the data.

India's Foreign Policy: The Idealistic and Realistic Perspectives

India's foreign policy has long been a subject of interest and analysis in academia. Scholars have debated the various factors that shape India's foreign policy, including its historical experiences, national interests, and regional dynamics. There is a consensus that India's foreign policy is driven by both idealistic and realistic perspectives. The idealistic perspective of India's foreign policy emphasizes principles such as non-alignment, promoting global peace and disarmament, and advocating for justice and equality in international relations. On the other hand, the realistic perspective acknowledges the importance of national interests, security concerns, and power dynamics in shaping India's foreign policy. Overall, India's foreign policy is a complex blend of idealism and realism, where the country seeks to balance its principles with its strategic goals.

The respondents provide insightful perspectives on the theme.

Idealistic Perspective –

From an idealistic perspective, India's foreign policy emphasizes global cooperation, harmony, and friendly relations with neighboring countries. It promotes aspects such as democracy, human rights, and non-alignment, showcasing a historical idealistic approach. India actively seeks cooperation and aims to avoid conflicts, as seen in its relationship with countries like Maldives. The country advocates for principles of non-alignment, peace, and cooperation, and aims to be a responsible global player, contributing to global development and addressing issues like climate change and poverty eradication. India is also moving towards strategic autonomy, indicating its idealistic aspirations.

Realistic Perspective of India's Foreign Policy

In contrast, the realistic perspective of India's foreign policy is rooted in national interest, security concerns, and geopolitical realities. India's foreign policy is based on its national interests and security concerns, leading to strategic alliances and partnerships based on pragmatic considerations rather than purely ideological ones. It also emphasizes the need to resolve neighbor conflicts and tackle terrorism, reflecting a realistic approach to regional stability and security. India aims to balance maintaining strategic autonomy with strategic partnerships with major powers, indicating a pragmatic and realistic approach to international relations.

Dual Approach to India's Foreign Policy

When it comes to India's foreign policy, it represents a dual approach, balancing both idealistic and realistic perspectives. This dual approach has seen a transition from idealism to realism over the years, with India initially practicing idealism and promoting non-alignment and global peace

but subsequently emphasizing its nuclear capability, strategic partnerships, and military power. Currently, India is navigating a balance between idealism and realism by following principles of peace and cooperation while also addressing its national interests and security concerns through strategic partnerships and alliances. This combination of idealism and realism reflects the complexity of India's foreign policy approach in the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

Role of Foreign Policy in Maintaining Diplomatic Relations

The professor's responses collectively underscore the multifaceted role of foreign policy in maintaining diplomatic relations with other countries. They emphasize that effective foreign policy is instrumental in promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect for sovereignty, thus encouraging positive diplomatic ties. The idealistic approach is highlighted as a means to navigate diplomatic relations by promoting peace, security, and cultural exchanges, ultimately contributing to national security and economic growth. The strategic use of foreign policy is seen as essential for influencing and balancing national security interests in the global system, reflecting its critical role in international relations. The professors also stress the importance of safeguarding national interests while engaging in diplomatic relations, ensuring that compromises with other countries do not overshadow a nation's interests and values.

Additionally, it emphasizes how important foreign policy is in shaping the opinions of a country and constructing its narrative for its identity and ideals on the international stage. One example of how foreign policy affects international relations is the aggressive and successful diplomatic connections that the current regime has fostered. The comments from the respondents as a whole

demonstrate how important foreign policy is to upholding diplomatic ties. This includes projection of ideals, diplomacy, national interest, and strategic impact on the international stage.

Role of Foreign Policy in Evacuation Missions

The professor's responses collectively highlight the evacuation missions as an important part of foreign policy. They emphasize that these missions demonstrate the Indian government's concern and prioritization of its citizens, showcasing the nation's commitment to the welfare and safety of its diaspora. These missions are seen as essential for building strategic cooperation, showcasing India's power, and enhancing its reputation on the global stage. The humanitarian aspect is underscored as a core driver of these missions, reflecting India's commitment to humanity and the well-being of its citizens, especially when they are in distress or stuck in challenging situations abroad. The missions also symbolize the role of a welfare government in ensuring the safety of its citizens abroad, thereby contributing to the projection of India as a responsible state that protects its citizens during crises. The inclusive nature of these missions, which extend assistance to neighboring countries in need, is highlighted as a crucial component of India's foreign policy. The professors stress that evacuation missions also play a significant role in domestic policy, as they bolster the confidence of Indian citizens in their government's capability to rescue them from crises in foreign countries, ultimately contributing to a sense of security and trust in the government's ability to protect its citizens. The professor's responses collectively underscore the multifaceted importance of evacuation missions as integral components of foreign policy, encompassing humanitarian, strategic, and domestic policy considerations, and reflecting India's commitment to the well-being and safety of its citizens and diaspora.

Cooperation of Other Countries in Evacuation Missions

The majority of the professors express a positive outlook on the cooperation of other countries in evacuation missions under foreign policy. They emphasize that there has generally been cooperation between India and other nations. Even one mention of a "supportive and positive" approach reflects the belief in constructive collaboration. The responses also highlight the diplomatic aspect of cooperation. One professor emphasizes the importance of good diplomatic relations, indicating that problems may arise if relations are strained with a particular country, as exemplified by the mention of China. This underscores the significance of diplomacy in influencing cooperative efforts during evacuation missions. One professor isn't fully convinced that nations usually work together harmoniously in times of crisis. He believes that during a crisis, a nation prioritizes its interests over those of its neighbors. This notion raises the question of whether international cooperation is always limited to mutual aid. It also demonstrates how difficult it may be to negotiate with other nations when a crisis arises. Together, the professor's comments highlight how complex international policy cooperation in evacuation operations is. These observations clarify the many factors and difficulties that come with international collaboration in emergencies.

India's Evacuation Missions In the context of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief

Together, the professor's response that India's evacuation missions have a major positive impact on the country's reputation and influence internationally, especially when it comes to disaster relief and humanitarian aid. The mention of "supportive and positive" cooperation suggests that

these missions have a favorable impact on India's international standing, portraying the country as proactive and compassionate in providing aid during crises. India's Evacuation Missions demonstrate the nation's diplomatic and logistical skills, emphasizing its organizational strength and willingness to help outside its boundaries. The evacuation of residents of nearby nations and cooperation with foreign partners during these operations also demonstrate India's regional and global cooperation. These initiatives greatly enhance India's reputation and power on the international stage by presenting it as a major and responsible nation in humanitarian aid and disaster relief activities.

Dilemmas of Evacuation Missions

The responses from the professors present a spectrum of viewpoints regarding the potential political utilization of evacuation missions by the government. The diverse perspectives shed light on the complexities of this issue within the context of Indian politics. One professor underscores the paramount importance of national interest, safety, and security of the people, suggesting that these considerations should take precedence over political motives. This viewpoint prioritizes the core objectives of the evacuation missions and highlights the significance of safeguarding citizens in times of crisis.

The responses exhibit a range of opinions on the politicization of evacuation missions. While some professors express uncertainty or refrain from making definitive statements, others acknowledge the inherent connection between such operations and political gain, considering it a common practice in politics. Other professors acknowledge the potential use of evacuation missions for political and party publicity, especially in the proximity of elections. The professors

contend that politics is a significant factor and that political parties frequently use humanitarian aid efforts to get support. They imply that these occurrences are occasionally to enhance the reputation of political parties or gain an advantage in the political environment. The response from the professors as a whole highlights the complex nature of the government's possible political use of evacuation operations. It is accepted that political reasons are intertwined with these endeavors, even as the core aims of these missions and the complex nature of national security concerns are acknowledged. Their points of view highlight how closely government policies, political factors, and public opinion are related, illuminating the nuanced dynamics at work in Indian politics.

Impact of Evacuation Missions

The professor's responses collectively highlight the positive impact of evacuation operations on India's position as a developing power, emphasizing the country's commitment to its citizens and the global image it has cultivated. The professors recognize the crucial role played by evacuation operations in prioritizing the safety and well-being of the Indian diaspora, particularly in emergencies. This underscores India's commitment to its citizens abroad and the significance of addressing their needs during times of crisis, reflecting positively on the country's stance as a responsible and caring nation.

The consensus among the professors is that evacuation operations have been highly effective in enhancing India's image as a welfare state that prioritizes the welfare of its citizens working abroad. This highlights the positive impact of these missions on projecting India as a nation that actively works towards the welfare of its people, thereby bolstering its global standing and

reputation. The responses also indicate that these operations have contributed to India's popularity and global influence. The proactive and efficient execution of evacuation missions has garnered attention and appreciation, further solidifying India's position and influence as a developing power on the world stage. While acknowledging the importance of diplomacy, one professor emphasizes that the effectiveness of evacuation missions has a substantial impact on India's global image. This perspective underscores the significance of prioritizing citizen's welfare and the practical implications of such operations on India's standing in the international community. The need for standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a swift response to keep citizens safe during crises is also highlighted. This emphasizes the importance of having welldefined strategies to ensure the safety of Indian citizens abroad, which in turn contributes to India's image as a responsible and capable developing power. Together, the professor's comments on how evacuation efforts have improved India's standing as a developing nation. India's reputation on the international stage is improved by the acknowledgment of its dedication to its people, the success of these missions in creating a favorable impression in the eyes of the world, and the focus on the welfare of the people. These observations demonstrate the complex ways in which evacuation efforts have shaped India's reputation and standing as a rising nation.

Challenges encountered during Evacuation Missions

The professor's responses indicate that the Government faces a wide range of challenges when it comes to evacuation missions, including political, security, and strategic aspects. Some professors specifically highlight the political challenges, emphasizing the potential for opposition criticism and doubt, which can undermine the government's efforts. These obstacles might

manifest as concerns about the government's intentions or charges of political tricks, which impede evacuation mission performance and affect public opinion. The significance of security concerns is also underlined, especially the possibility of non-Indians infiltrating the region and possible fugitives taking sanctuary while evacuation activities are underway. This highlights the complex security concerns that the government must address to protect the well-being and safety of its citizens during such activities.

The presence of strategic challenges is acknowledged by certain professors, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the obstacles encountered. These challenges likely involve logistical coordination, diplomatic negotiations, and operational planning, underscoring the intricate strategic considerations involved in successful evacuation missions.

Role of Social Media during Evacuating Operations

Real-Time Update and Communication – Together, the professor's comments highlight social media's complex and significant significance in evacuation efforts. They stress how important it is to give real-time updates and act as a crucial communication channel, promoting openness and promptness in the delivery of important information.

Political Reporting and Professionalism – Furthermore, social media's influence on public perception and the narrative surrounding evacuation operations is reflected in the recognition of its significant role in political reporting. But there's also a request for more professionalism in media coverage, which suggests that even in the emotionally charged atmosphere of such missions, objective, fair reporting is still necessary.

Sensitivity and Privacy Concerns – The opinions highlighting the need for tact and prudence when it comes to sharing information on social media highlight the moral dilemmas and privacy issues that come with using these channels for evacuation operations.

Swift Action and Solidarity Building – Social media has been acknowledged for its importance in rallying public support, altering public perception of the necessity of such operations, and generating pressure for quick action and solidarity for evacuation missions.

Connectivity and Outreach – The recognition of social media as an essential medium for disseminating disaster information, fostering unity, and permitting communication for stranded persons highlights the platform's pivotal function in promoting outreach and assistance amid emergencies.

The professor's answers shed light on social media's varied functions during evacuation operations, including how it affects outreach, public opinion, communication, and political reporting. These observations throw light on social media's multidimensional influence in the context of rescue operations.

Key Considerations for Ensuring Safety and Security during High-Risk Evacuation Operations

The professor's responses collectively highlight several key considerations for ensuring the safety and security of evacuation personnel and assets during high-risk operations, reflecting the multifaceted nature of these endeavors. In their responses, the professors underlined the vital role that careful verification and information collection play in evacuation operations, emphasizing

how important it is to reduce risks and guarantee the security of people. This emphasizes how important it is to have thorough screening procedures and information-gathering activities in place to handle any threats during missions with such high stakes. Moreover, the paramount importance of protecting human life is apparent, with particular focus placed on ensuring that marginalized populations, such as individuals with disabilities, are not harmed. This emphasizes the moral and humanitarian requirements that guide these actions and the basic importance of keeping all parties safe.

The acknowledgment of several aspects, including information exchange, diplomacy, and logistics, highlights the complexity of guaranteeing safety and security during high-risk evacuations. These factors emphasize that to successfully protect people in difficult situations, careful preparation, coordination, and cooperation across several domains are required. The necessity of a preemptive strategy and prompt evacuation best shown by the operation in Afghanistan—highlights the significance of prompt decision-making to reduce risks and maximize safety. This demonstrates how important it is to take preventative precautions and respond decisively when circumstances change. Finally, the comments from the professors together provide light on the complex factors that must be taken into account to guarantee the assets and individuals involved in evacuation operations are safe and secure. These insights talk about how difficult it can be to protect people in difficult situations. They also highlight how crucial it is to carry out thorough verification, preserve life, protect vulnerable populations, take diplomatic and logistical considerations into account, make proactive decisions, and use experience to guide strategic approaches.

Approximately Cost Used for Operating Both Missions

When it comes to these questions well even in my dissertation process I didn't find any article or data related to cost estimation. So, at least to get a tentative idea I asked this question in my questionnaire. The data I found is expressed in the pie chart below.

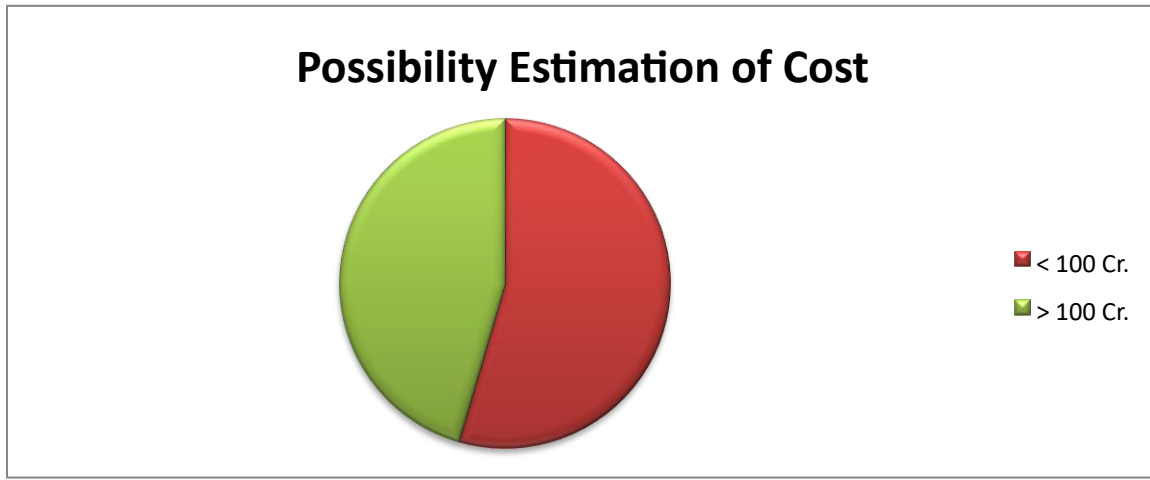


Figure 4.1: Possibility Estimation of Cost

In figure 1 it is mentioned that 54.5% of respondents believe there must be a spend of more than 100 Cr. while 45.5% feel less than 100 Cr. was spent during these evacuation missions. While looking for the relevant articles for this topic I didn't find either direct or indirect information on it. But while doing work I found under Operation Ganga the official account of a total of 22,500 people were evacuated and under Vande Bharath and Operation Samudra Setu I didn't find the specific data like on different sources I found various data. Like in the Press Information Bureau mentioned 'India's massive evacuation program triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has brought back over 67.5 Lakh people from abroad' (Press Information Bureau, India's Vande

Bharath mission brings back over 67.5 Lakh people). But the interesting fact is the people by themselves paid for the airline's flight while Operation Samudra Setu was led by the Indian Navy ships. Thus it is not the government that handles all the costs but it is the people themselves who pay it. So, it is not possible to count the total estimate of the cost.

India's Strategic Development in Foreign Policy Through Evacuation of Non-Indian Students

The professor's responses collectively reflect diverse perspectives on India's strategic development in foreign policy through the evacuation of non-Indian students alongside Indian students under Operation Ganga. The insights underscore the multifaceted nature of this strategic development, encompassing humanitarian, political, and diplomatic dimensions.

Some professors perceive this move as having both humanitarian and political perspectives. The recognition of the humanitarian aspect underscores India's commitment to aiding individuals in need, irrespective of nationality, reflecting the country's humanitarian values. At the same time, the acknowledgment of the political perspective suggests an understanding of the potential diplomatic and international relations implications of this action. The assessment of this action as excellent and positive shows respect for India's inclusive and proactive strategy in providing support to students who are not Indian. These answers highlight how well-regarded India's foreign policy is and how it may promote international collaboration and goodwill. The recognition of India's effort to gain international political mileage and promote friendly and cooperative relations highlights the perceived diplomatic significance of this strategic

development. These viewpoints underscore the potential for this action to enhance India's diplomatic standing and advance its broader foreign policy objectives.

Some professors emphasize that the move is primarily humanitarian, highlighting the significant presence of Indian students in Ukraine and the accompanying individuals from neighboring states. The professor's responses collectively illuminate the multifaceted nature of India's strategic development in foreign policy through the evacuation of non-Indian students alongside Indian students under Operation Ganga. These insights shed light on the diverse perceptions of India's foreign policy approach and its potential implications for the country's global standing and diplomatic relations.

Areas for Improving Evacuation Procedures

The responses from the professors collectively highlight several specific areas where the government should focus on improving evacuation procedures, reflecting the need for enhanced planning, technological integration, logistical support, and rapid response mechanisms. One professor mentioned he believed that there must be more people who are stuck in Ukraine, emphasizing the need for focused actions to enable their secure repatriation. This emphasizes how crucial it is to take all necessary steps to meet the requirements of individuals impacted and guarantee their safety and well-being during the evacuation process. The acknowledgment of the expanding significance of digital platforms, such as the use of applications for instantaneous updates and the creation of assistance desks, signifies the possibility for technology to improve communication and coordination, therefore optimizing the evacuation procedures mentioned.

The significance of providing comprehensive assistance for evacuees is shown by the focus on streamlining logistics, meeting basic requirements, and setting up facilitation help stations. This entails not just attending to urgent issues but also making sure that support and coordination are provided continuously. The necessity of flexible and proactive methods of crisis management is highlighted by the demand for speedier reaction mechanisms and the preparation of specialized teams for crises. This will provide prompt and effective answers to unanticipated obstacles.

Further, the emphasis placed by government officials on making strategic decisions and allocating sufficient financial resources underscores the necessity of meticulous planning and resource management and guaranteeing the efficacy of evacuation protocols. Governments may improve their performance by giving strategic resource allocation and proactive decision-making top priority. The professor's responses collectively shed light on specific areas where the government should focus on improving evacuation procedures, encompassing the need for comprehensive planning, digital integration, logistical support, rapid response mechanisms, and strategic decision-making. These insights underscore the multifaceted nature of enhancing evacuation procedures, emphasizing the importance of technological integration, proactive planning, resource allocation, and rapid response frameworks. The collective perspectives reflect a comprehensive understanding of the areas necessitating improvement to optimize the safety and efficacy of evacuation procedures during crises.

Evacuation Mission and Beyond

The responses from the professors collectively reflect a range of perspectives on the consequences faced by the Indian Government after operations, encompassing both positive and negative implications, and highlighting considerations related to public perception, operational gaps, and the need for a quick response team. The recognition of both positive and negative consequences suggests a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted outcomes of government operations. This acknowledgment underscores the complexity of evaluating the aftermath of such operations, encompassing both favorable outcomes and potential challenges or drawbacks. Several professors underscore the positive impact of such operations in building confidence among citizens and shaping public perception. This reflects an appreciation for the role of successful operations in fostering trust and confidence in the government's capabilities and responsiveness during crises.

Also, the possibility of backlash or criticism in the event of casualties during evacuation operations highlights the sensitivity and public scrutiny surrounding such endeavors. This perspective underscores the potential for adverse public reactions in the event of operational shortcomings or failures, reflecting the high stakes and public expectations associated with evacuation missions. The reference to the need for a quick response team and the potential identification of gaps in the operation through a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Weakness, Threat) analysis underscores the imperative for operational preparedness, agility, and proactive measures to address emergent challenges effectively. These insights emphasize the importance of continuous improvement and readiness in managing crises. The professor's responses collectively illuminate the diverse consequences faced by the Indian Government after

operations, encompassing positive outcomes, public perception considerations, potential criticism, and the need for operational preparedness. The recognition of the multifaceted impact, ranging from building public confidence to addressing operational gaps and potential criticisms, underscores the complexity of evaluating the aftermath of government operations. These insights shed light on the diverse and interconnected implications of such operations, highlighting the need for comprehensive analysis, continuous improvement, and proactive measures to navigate the aftermath effectively.

India's Evacuation Mission and Strategic Partnerships with Other Countries

The responses from the professors collectively highlight diverse perspectives on how India's evacuation mission contributes to building and strengthening strategic partnerships with other countries, reflecting varied viewpoints on the potential impact of such missions on international cooperation and strategic relations. The professor's answers offer a thorough analysis of India's evacuation effort, stressing its complex effects on geopolitical alliances with neighboring countries. They acknowledge the mission's contribution to fostering international collaboration, expressing thanks, and demonstrating India's capabilities, all of which help to build the foundation for improved strategic partnerships. Opinions on the value and effect of cooperative efforts vary, most people agree that evacuation missions have a big influence on how India shapes its strategic alliances and develops cooperative connections abroad.

The professor's responses collectively shed light on the diverse perspectives regarding how India's evacuation mission contributes to building and strengthening strategic partnerships with other countries. The recognition of the potential for fostering gratitude, showcasing capabilities,

promoting international cooperation, and adhering to norms of reciprocity and responsible state behavior underscores the multifaceted nature of such missions in shaping strategic relations. These insights illuminate the complex interplay of diplomatic, ethical, and cooperative considerations that underpin the impact of evacuation missions on India's strategic partnerships with other countries.

Long-Term Implications of India's Evacuation Missions on Its Multilateral Relationships with Other Countries

The responses from the professors collectively reflect a spectrum of perspectives on the potential long-term implications of India's evacuation missions on its multilateral relationships with other countries, encompassing positive, neutral, and proactive viewpoints on the impact of such missions on India's global standing and diplomatic engagements. The responses from the professors exhibit a spectrum of viewpoints regarding the potential long-term implications of India's evacuation missions on its multilateral relationships with other countries. While some respondents offer neutral or non-committal remarks, others express optimism about the positive outcomes, suggesting that these missions could strengthen relationships or send strong messages of government support to Indian citizens during challenging times. One respondent highlights the potential for India to extend assistance to poor African and Asian countries, both in terms of evacuation efforts and financial aid, which could bolster India's global support and trust among nations. Another emphasizes the importance of coordination with other countries for successful evacuation missions and the subsequent building of multilateral relationships. Overall, the responses underscore the complexity and varied perspectives on how India's evacuation missions

may impact its multilateral relationships, ranging from positive outcomes to calls for coordinated efforts and assistance to other nations.

The professor's responses collectively shed light on the diverse and multifaceted potential longterm implications of India's evacuation missions on its multilateral relationships with other countries. The recognition of these missions as a platform for trust building, proactive global engagement, and collaborative efforts underscores the multifaceted nature of their impact on India's diplomatic standing and multilateral relationships. These insights highlight the complexity and strategic potential of leveraging evacuation missions as a means to foster goodwill, solidarity, and mutually beneficial engagements, thereby shaping India's long-term multilateral relationships with other countries.

Response to the Evacuation Missions

The responses from the professors reflect a diverse range of views and additional perspectives on the topic of evacuation missions and international relations. The professor's answers present a variety of viewpoints on India's evacuation efforts. Although one responder notes that India had a major role in world politics during the COVID-19 outbreak, the other argues that India's activities during the crisis between Russia and Ukraine were less successful. Another highlights the necessity of carrying out these evacuation operations in times of emergency, demonstrating support for governmental activities related to crisis management. Another answer supports the idea that the government is doing a good thing by implementing evacuations, suggesting that people generally support these initiatives. One respondent suggested creating an international

organization tasked with organizing evacuations from crisis areas, although there are other recommendations for more extensive international cooperation. This sheds light on a few possible structural upgrades for international crisis response systems.

Suggestions

The respondent's recommendations for my dissertation subject on evacuation missions cover a variety of perspectives and ideas. A reply emphasizes the significance of tackling obstacles and crucial elements, including the government's politicization of rescue efforts. This viewpoint emphasizes how important it is to examine the political factors that impact these kinds of operations in addition to their operational components.

Expanding the scope to take into account significant questions other than the particular queries presented is another recommendation made about the questionnaire replies. According to this point of view, a more thorough examination of the larger frameworks and theoretical backdrop of international relations would be beneficial for the research. Further, the proposal raises questions about how well the questionnaire would fit in with in-depth studies of global politics. It recommends looking into other research approaches and cites particular written by Stanley Johnny in The Hindu as possible resources for more knowledge and direction. All things considered, these recommendations provide insightful analyses of the breadth, complexity, and methodology of the dissertation, promoting a more sophisticated investigation of the nuances present in the subject matter of international relations and evacuation operations.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The goal of the study, "Evaluating Evacuation Missions In India's Foreign Policy: Case Study Of Vande Bharat, Operation Samudra Setu, And Operation Ganga," is to examine and assess the two significant evacuation missions that the government launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine to evacuate their citizens and provide humanitarian aid to those in need. The study effectively analyzed the evacuation missions of the Government of India during this specified crisis, shedding light on the strategies employed and their impact on human security. Any country's foreign policy plays a vital role in executing this kind of evacuation mission. About Indian Evacuation missions, India's collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Defense, and Private Stakeholders effectively managed these missions and repatriated their citizens. This study tries to evaluate the findings and strongly support the hypothesis that the Indian Government successfully evacuated its citizens during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Russia-Ukraine crises. The Vande Bharath, Operation Samudra Setu, and Operation Ganga missions are examples of the government's dedication to protecting the security and welfare of its people during international emergencies. The study found that one of the biggest obstacles to organizing evacuation missions was guaranteeing the human security of a sizable Indian diaspora. There were other obstacles as well to overcome, including the size of the operations, travel restrictions, and logistical complexity. The analysis supports the third hypothesis, which states that strong faith in the government's evacuation operations is a result of India's active participation in international collaboration and coordination. Public opinion was positively impacted and confidence in the government's crisis management capabilities was increased by the efficient reaction of the government in repatriating its countrymen. The coordinated efforts and successful execution of these missions have shown how proactive India is

in defending the interests of its people abroad. The use of a descriptive, comparative, and analytical approach, alongside the use of primary and secondary sources, facilitated a holistic understanding of the evacuation missions. The structured questionnaire effectively gathered respondent opinions, enriching the study with qualitative insights.

The study's scope included an in-depth exploration of the planning, coordination, and execution of evacuation operations, providing a comprehensive analysis of the key dimensions and issues related to these critical missions. Even this study has established a foundation for further investigation in this important field, to improve evacuation plans and crisis management procedures.

In second chapter, titled ‘_Historical Background and Theoretical Framework’, provides an overview of the evolution of India's foreign policy under various prime ministers' leaderships, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi. It highlights key events that have shaped India's foreign policy and also highlights the role of the Indian Constitution and judiciary in protecting human rights. The chapter also focuses on India's past evacuation missions, from the 1990 Operation Kuwait Airlift to Operation Ajay of 2024 during the Israel-Palestine conflict. These missions serve as important precedents for the evacuation missions evaluated in this dissertation i.e. Vande Bharat, Operation Samudra Setu, and Operation Ganga which were launched by the government during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As the theoretical framework, I compared it to the 'Human Security Approach', which prioritizes people over the state. This approach is concerned with the focus of India's evacuation missions, which are fundamentally about safeguarding the rights and well-being of Indian citizens abroad. The chapter also provides comparisons between state security and human security, and between International Human Rights Laws and Human Security, providing an understanding of the

complexities involved in these missions. It is evident that India's evacuation missions are not just logistical exercises but are deeply intertwined with its foreign policy and its commitment to human security. They reflect India's diplomatic understanding, strategic capabilities, and adherence to the principles of human rights. It underscores the importance of a people-centric approach in foreign policy and the role of evacuation missions in upholding human security.

The third chapter of the dissertation, titled ‘Evacuation Operations: Operation Ganga, Operation Samudra Setu, and Vande Bharath,’ is a comprehensive evaluation of recent evacuation missions launched by the Indian government. These missions were initiated in response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenging part while preparing this chapter was the limitation of resources, thus most of the time I had to stick with different news channels and recorded interviews of officials and evacuees. The primary sources of information were various news channels and recorded interviews of officials and evacuees. These sources provided a wealth of insights into the experiences of government officials and repatriates during these crises. The chapter delves into the strategic planning, logistical challenges, and execution of these operations, providing a detailed analysis of each aspect. The Indian government's dedication to human security and rights is shown in the evacuation missions. The humanitarian help that the government offered during the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly to its neighboring nations in distress, is clear evidence of its efforts to promote and safeguard human security. The evacuation efforts highlight how proactive the government is in guaranteeing the security and welfare of its people, especially in areas of danger like Russia and Ukraine. The chapter also highlights how India is concerned for human security and rights, through India's move to safeguard the non-Indians, especially from neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan despite having political and border issues. An extensive assessment of India's most recent

evacuation operations is given in the third chapter. It clarifies the government's approach and performance in times of crisis, as well as its dedication to human rights and security, and it highlights development opportunities. The chapter makes a substantial contribution to our knowledge of India's foreign policy and how it affects international security. It also creates opportunities for more investigation into the efficiency and inclusiveness of these rescue operations. The knowledge acquired in this chapter can direct future policy choices as well as crisis management and evacuation plans.

The 'Data Analyses' chapter in research was essential to comprehend the information from the 20 questions asked to the political science professors to obtain data. The data, which was acquired through in-person meetings and Google Forms provides a different viewpoint that the respondents offered, providing diverse opinions on subjects including foreign policy, evacuation missions, and critical perspectives. The chapter provides a comprehensive viewpoint of the perspectives presented by the distinguished professors by carefully examining the wide range of comments. Even the reading material was also recommended by the respondents, providing insight into the sources they believe are essential for a deeper understanding of the subjects covered. The chapter offers an insightful discussion of the relationship between politics and mission strategies by examining the respondent's insights about the politicization of missions. Using this comprehensive examination, Chapter 4 captures the range and profundity of the viewpoints offered by the respondents.

To conclude, I feel my given hypothesis are proven because government had successfully evacuated their citizens from the crises zone mainly COVID – 19 Pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict. Even though India's large diaspora is living throughout the world India has proven that they are concerned for human security and hold potential to launched this kind of evacuation

mission during crises in future as well. The meticulous planning, swift execution, and efficient coordination with various stakeholders resulted in the successful repatriation of a significant number of Indian nationals, thus safeguarding their human security. India's active engagement in International Cooperation and coordination has further reinforced public trust in its government's foreign policy.

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Appendix

Appendix I

Questionnaire

EVALUATING EVACUATION MISSIONS IN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY: CASE STUDY OF VANDE BHARATH, OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU AND OPERATION GANGA

Greetings Sir/Ma'am

I, **SHRIPAD GAONKAR** pursuing Master's in Political Science at Goa University. As a part of my dissertation on the topic —Evaluating Evacuation Missions in India's Foreign Policy: Case Study of Vande Bharath, Operation Samudra Setu and Operation Gangal, responses of the people's are valuable to my study. Requesting for your valuable time to answer some of the questions related to my study. The identity of the respondent will be kept confidential and will be used only for the academic purpose.

RESPONDENT DETAILS:

NAME (optional) —

GENDER —

AGE —

DESIGNATION —

QUALIFICATION —

BACKGROUND OF INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

1) How you see India's Foreign Policy from Idealistic and Realistic perspective?

2) What is the role of Foreign Policy in maintaining their diplomatic relations with other countries?

INDIA'S EVACUATION MISSIONS

3) Have you heard about the following operations undertaken by India in recent past?

- I. Operation Ganga
- II. Operation Samudra Setu
- III. Vande Bharath
- IV. All of the above

4) Give details of operations –

- I. Operation Ganga

- II. Operation Samudra Setu

III. Vande Bharath

5) Why these kind of evacuation missions are the important part of the foreign policy?

6) How do you look at co-operation of other countries in evacuation mission under foreign policy?

7) In achieving their objectives, how would you assess the effectiveness of India's Evacuation Missions (Op. Samudra Setu, Vande Bharath, and Op. Ganga)?

I. Operation Ganga –

- a. Highly Effective
- b. Effective
- c. Not Effective
- d. Can't Say

II. Operation Samudra Setu –

- a. Highly Effective
- b. Effective
- c. Not Effective
- d. Can't Say

III. Vande Bharath –

- a. Highly Effective
- b. Effective
- c. Not Effective
- d. Can't Say

8) In the context of Humanitarian Assistance and disaster relief, how India's Evacuation Missions contribute to its image and influence on the Global Stage?

CRITICAL AND COMPARATIVE

9) Is it possible that the current government in power is using this operation for political gain and party publicity?

10) To what extent these evacuation operations helped India to improved its position in the world as a developing power?

11) What are the challenges or obstacles encountered by the Government during Evacuation Missions?

- I. Operation Ganga
 - a. Political Challenge
 - b. Security Challenge
 - c. Strategic Challenge
 - d. All of the above

II. Operation Samudra Setu

- a. Political Challenge
- b. Security Challenge
- c. Strategic Challenge
- d. All of the above

III. Vande Bharath

- a. Political Challenge
- b. Security Challenge
- c. Strategic Challenge
- d. All of the above

12) What role does social media played during Evacuating Operations?

13) For the entire Evacuation Operation what approximately cost were used for operating both missions? (Not Compulsory)

- a. > 100 Cr.
- b. < 100 Cr.
- c. If you know, please specify _____

14) What are the key considerations for ensuring the safety and security of evacuation personnel and assets during high risk operations?

15) While evacuating Indians students under Operation Ganga also evacuate Non Indian Students. How do you see this strategic development in India's Foreign Policy?

16) According to you, is there any specific areas where the Government should be supposed to have focused for improving evacuating procedure?

17) What are the consequences did Indian government face after these operations? Positive as well as Negative.

Future Implications of India's Foreign Policy

18) How India's Evacuation Mission contribute to building and strengthening strategic partnership with other countries?

19) What could be the long term implications of India's Evacuation Missions on its multilateral relationship with other countries?

20) Would you like to provide any additional views on it? (OPTIONAL)
