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Topic – Emerging Dynamics of India’s Foreign Policy towards the GCC: Indian Diaspora as a Factor

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**Keywords:** Diaspora, Indian Diaspora, Foreign Policy, India’s Foreign Policy, GCC.

**FINDINGS:** The research aims to examine the development of a foreign policy that retains the migratory population as its focal point. The main objectives of the study included; understanding India's Diaspora and Foreign policy in the context of evolutionary and contemporary perspective; studying the emerging 'diaspora dynamics' in India's Foreign policy towards the GCC, and examining the challenges for Indian Foreign policy towards its Diaspora in the GCC.

**Below are some research findings.**

1. The uniqueness of the Indian policy towards the working population in the GCC is that India has a migrant policy seeking remittances rather than a diaspora engagement policy for seeking investments.
2. The approach is limited to investments as the population there is Indian passport holding. Since the most significant chunk of the people there have living roots in India, investing in different sectors of the economy can be appealing. It is over and above the remittance economy.
3. Likewise, the scope of this policy in the GCC will be fruitful if the policy solves the dual purpose, i.e., providing safe labour migration laws and rights along with sustained engagement to reinvest in India, for instance, in setting Charitable institutions and sponsoring developmental activities.
4. The policy will be different from soft power diaspora policies traditionally followed by other countries like Israel, for using the Diaspora for domestic needs. The feasibility of the policy in the short run will build faith and trust in the Diaspora and, in the long run, will help to improve institutional capacity for diaspora skill mapping and profiling of the Diaspora in host countries. Thus, India needs a diaspora engagement policy. A policy that not only caters to the overall development of the Indian labour diaspora, that forms the backbone of the Gulf economy and Indian homeland but also provides a safe and sound environment for diaspora mobility.