
UNIT 14 DIASPORA INFLUENCE ON POLICY MAKING

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14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this Unit, you will be able to

- Appreciate the 'soft power' of the Indian diaspora
- Discuss the policies for engagement with the diaspora
- Elaborate upon the impact of Indian diaspora on foreign policy.

14.2 INTRODUCTION

Diasporas have emerged as an essential component in the globalisation process, establishing a global village that brings together people from different national, socio-economic, political, and cultural backgrounds. Diasporas retain their links to their countries of origin or descent, and in many instances, legal identity and socio-economic life are preserved in a variety of countries. This has a beneficial multiplier impact on the global industry, commerce, cultural exchange, and international ties. It also pressures governments to take their diaspora into account in their national growth strategies, policy making and agendas. Today, foreign relations signify interconnectedness between populations of various countries. In recent years, where governments have become increasingly people-centred, one of the leading agents of diplomacy is the people themselves. This made the diaspora an effective diplomatic agent.

In their pursuit of external objectives, countries are increasingly aware that their diaspora is a valuable asset. Many countries are expanding their overseas populations due to growing migration and the rise in international employment opportunities. In many countries, diaspora groups find it easier than in the past to engage actively in social, economic and political activities in their adopted

homes, irrespective of their legal status. Overseas Indians are today known as the 'Awareness Diaspora'; the largest diaspora, estimated at over 32 million and spread across 210 countries. They are a strategic resource because of their 'virtual presence' across industries and most parts of the world. Therefore, India acknowledges the need to add a strategic dimension to its contribution to its overseas community. Indian policy realised early on that there is no single, homogeneous Indian overseas community. Indeed, within organisations, there are communities characterised by their capacity and willingness to interact with India and with different expectations. Therefore, the policy emphasis has been on implementing a mobility strategy that will allow for a wide variety of roles and priorities and optimise collaborative involvement.

The recent focus has been put on the need for a transformational migration strategy that modifies the existing migrant management structures in line with the requirements of current major migrants and refugees and combines migration with development aims. Owing to the scale of the financial flows from the diaspora, policymakers around the world are more and more concerned about how these flows can be channelled to promote entrepreneurship, support innovation, and improve the economic priority areas (Agunias and Newland, 2012). Governments are improving their regulatory capacity to govern labour migration and diaspora ties to the mutual benefit of society, migrants and the economy.

14.3 DIASPORAS' SOFT POWER

Soft power has an influencer role on the decisions made by individuals, businesses, and governments. Joseph Nye, a pioneering thinker on the subject, goes further, arguing that soft power is a "means to succeed in international politics" for those who understand how to leverage it. Soft power is the capacity to attract and co-opt, rather than coerce others in international politics (contrast with hard power). In other words, soft power is the process of influencing others' preferences through appeal and attraction. Its non-coercive nature defines soft power; it consists of culture, political values, and foreign policies. Power is the ability to influence others to achieve one's desired outcomes, which can be accomplished through coercion, payment, or attraction and persuasion. Soft power refers to the ability to achieve desired outcomes through attraction rather than coercion or payment. This anecdotal comment recounts the concept's origins as an analytical tool and its gradual evolution as an instrumental concept used in political discourse in Europe, China, and the United States.

There are several soft power tools, such as culture, education, economics, and one of them is diaspora. The diaspora is an investment which is economical, cultural, political, emotional and social. Its importance is expressed in three areas: political lobbying, economic growth and the transfer of information (Mohan 2003). Its position as an enhancing agent of legitimacy for economic actors home and its economic contribution to the host country provides ample scope for political exercises to influence policy decisions on their countries of origin. The cultural relations between the two countries help to open up many contact networks between them. Today a country like India cannot afford to ignore, in the form of transfers and foreign direct investment, the interests of its diaspora, which contributes massively to its economy.

Diaspora's soft power credentials are evident in the world today. Numerous countries such as China and India are seeking to attract their citizens from abroad to contribute to the economy of their country of origin (Stanzel, 2015). The use of the diaspora as a tool for foreign policy is relatively recent and only gained traction in the liberalised post-cold war period. Indian diaspora can become a force in Indian foreign policy when dealing with the countries of South-East Asia. It is evident that soft power may be a necessary condition for achieving goals, but is not a sufficient condition. This is because foreign policy outcomes are not unilateral decisions. Their success depends on other nations. Their interests play a crucial role in how successful we are. If our goals are opposed to their national interests, they will not toe our line even if they like our culture and civilization. That is where the use of some aspects of "hard power" would come into play. That does not automatically imply the use of force. There are other instruments of persuasion. As the diaspora has the potential to influence foreign policy in a country without intimidation or the use of formidable force, it is inherent in politics. In Southeast Asia, both ethnic Indians and the Chinese have for a long time been an essential part of their communities and have effectively served as a bridge between the two areas. The use of the diaspora as an Indian foreign policy tool, however, is a comparatively modern phenomenon.

General expectations of any country from the diaspora are "the overseas diaspora network; its position as reputation agents for economic agents back home; and its impact through financial flows, especially foreign direct investments and remittance is important for their home countries". These countries' foreign direct investments are marginal. The same applies to remittances compared with exchanges from the Gulf or the West. In politics, except for Singapore, Indians in these states are not well represented politically. Even the administrative machinery has a few Indians. The Indian Diaspora, therefore, has no use for lobbying on behalf of the home government. Furthermore, the region varies significantly in terms of politics. Very few countries are real democracies that are again an obstacle to lobbying. Besides, very few prominent Indians can affect public opinion in several ways, such as media ownership.

The Indian Diaspora is advantageous to India's soft power in the USA, as it has the capability of attractive ideas through its wealth and education. Another justification is that they are predominantly professional migrants and their educational levels, as well as income, is very high. In the psyche of Indian emigrants, the aspiration for education has always been healthy. It is only education that has brought the Indian diaspora to such a level. Knowledge is power, and India is known as a knowledge superpower.

It is high time now that India defines a marketplace. Businesses are unable to accomplish their goals and make a profit in the long run without a purposeful plan. For India to make progress on its soft-power agenda, its goals need to be more clearly defined. On that basis, priority should be given to the regions that it most needs to target and the soft power sources that it can use more systematically in each of them. The two main government goals are to become a destination for foreign investment and to create a positive environment for Indian companies abroad. Investment in maintaining links with the diaspora and increasing the reach of India's cultural activities are two strategies that can help to achieve this.

Similarly, if India wants a more decisive role on the world stage, it needs to better express its capacity to lead the institutional, political and moral spheres. India, on the other hand, lacked a systematic approach to the creation and use of soft power. Indians form the largest diaspora in the world, and have enormous strengths to draw upon; its young domestic population fluency in English; its culture as one of the oldest and remarkably diverse civilizations; its cultural exports, such as Bollywood, Yoga and cuisine.

The fact cannot be denied that soft power “lubricates” or smoothes out other instruments in diplomacy. If a country is appreciative of our values and culture, it may be predisposed towards avoiding an adversarial position. Hence, during decision-making occasions, it could tend towards a favourable one provided it is not against its national interests.

14.4 GLOBAL DIASPORA

As you have read in Unit 11, the notion of the diaspora is not new; it was used in the context of Jewish communities in the classical period. The typical characteristics of diasporas, discussed by authors such as Cohen (1997), Tölölyan (1996) and Saffran (1991), have also been debated. Popular features may be the spread from an original homeland, the collective memory and myth about homeland, and border maintenance, but they are not exclusive.

Brah (1996) drew attention to the study of “diaspora space,” exploring the political and cultural space in which connections and identities from home are generated and questioned. This ethno political / spatial change in studying diaspora is a crucial subject of the research on diaspora. As Werbner (2005) has emphasised, diasporas can be ethnic-parochial as well as cosmopolitan, and they can emphasise contingency, hybridity and indeterminacy toward essentialist political, racial and cultural conceptualisations (Gilroy, 1993). The subsequent scholars viewed diaspora as dynamic and ever changing, not only in terms of its identity but also in its growth. One can cite the example of the “Turkish economic migrants” who later became a “Kurdish diaspora” in London (Demir 2016).

The changes in the definitions of “diaspora” are often related in politics and practice to the so-called “diaspora transition.” While diaspora-related policies and institutions have existed since the 1800s, it was only in the 1990s that an increasing number of governments and international organisations integrated diaspora populations into different realms (Gamlén, 2014). This comes from an increasingly recognised understanding that diaspora communities are important actors for development and that they can strengthen social, economic and cultural relations between their home countries and their host countries. Policies for Diaspora Outreach include not only conventional national consular services but also programs within ministries concentrating, for example, on health, welfare, jobs, education, the environment, culture or religion. Various countries, including the Philippines, Bangladesh, Canada and Israel, have diaspora-only ministries.

Data on diaspora groups cannot be collected as emigrants may not automatically belong to diasporas and descendants of second- and third-generation migrants may also be perceived or regarded as members of the diaspora community.

Typically, most, if not all, diasporas are characterised by the following characteristics:

1. Migration, forced or voluntary, in pursuit of jobs, trade or fleeing conflict or persecution from the country of origin;
2. An idealised, collective recollection of the ancestral home and myth;
3. A continuous association with a country of origin;
4. A strong consciousness of a community feeling;
5. A sense of empathy with members of the diaspora in other nations. (adapted from Cohen, 2008).

With a robust 17.5 million, India has the world's largest diaspora community, according to the UN report on migration patterns. The study found that 272 million people lived as foreign migrants, or in a country other than the one they were born in.

Top 10 countries with the largest diaspora population in the world, 2019

1. India: 17.5 million
2. Mexico: 11.8 million
3. China – 10.7 million
4. Russia – 10.5 million
5. Syria – 8.2 million
6. Bangladesh – 7.8 million
7. Pakistan – 6.3 million
8. Ukraine – 5.9 million
9. Philippines – 5.4 million
10. Afghanistan – 5.1 million

The United States continues to host the world's largest immigrant community – 51 million. Germany and Saudi Arabia have 13 million each. Regionally, Europe hosted the largest number of foreign migrants (82 million), followed by North America (59 million), and North Africa and Western Asia (49 million).

Top 10 countries hosting international immigrants, 2019

1. US: 51 million
2. Germany: 13 million
3. Saudi Arabia: 13 million
4. Russia: 12 million
5. United Kingdom: 10 million
6. United Arab Emirates: 9 million
7. France: 8 million
8. Canada: 8 million

9. Australia: 8 million

10. Italy: 6 million

Check your progress 1

Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.

b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1. Define soft power

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2. Explain the credentials of soft power

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14.5 INDIAN POLICY OF DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Governments use a range of approaches at different governmental levels to communicate with their diasporas and use multiple institutional types. These policies, also referred to as “diaspora participation policies,” range from protecting the rights and security of members of the diaspora and reinforcing a sense of national identity, to cultivating closer relations with the country of origin and contributing to social and economic growth. The policies of involvement of the diaspora represent a set of institutional and legislative structures and initiatives and should therefore not be interpreted as a unitary policy of the State.

In 2000, the Government of India convened a High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora with a mandate to map the Indian diaspora in terms of size, capability, expectations and constraints. Based on the Committee’s recommendations, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was formed. The Ministry’s initiative has included “legislative reforms, regulatory reforms, process reforms and international cooperation.”

The mandate of the Ministry can be summarised in three key points:

- 1) Establishing networks with and amongst overseas Indians;
- 2) Empowerment and security of migrants;
- 3) Fostering and encouraging trade and investment by overseas Indians in India

The following table shows India’s mature and well-developed policy structure that has developed over the years.

Table 1: Indian Policy for Diaspora Engagement

Sl. No.	Diaspora Engagement Action	Status of Indian Policy
1	Flexible laws on citizenship, conditions for residency and visas	India does not allow dual citizenship, but it’s OCI Card program provides lifetime visa-free travel and full-residency and employment rights for individuals of Indian descent who are nationals of other countries.
2	Political Rights and privileges	Voting rights have not been given to Indian citizens of other nations. Still, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs-Indian Passport holders settled overseas) have recently regained their right to vote by amending rules for registering voters located overseas.
3	Property Rights	Indian Diaspora holding PIO or OCI cards are entitled to buy property in India (except farm and plantation).
4	Incentives to Tax	A reduced customs duty regime is required for the transfer of residence of returning Indians from abroad to India, including the retention of NRI status up to three years after return. Provisions for the transfer of philanthropic funds and tax deductions for charitable funds are available.
5	Portable Benefits	Through the provision of SSAs (Social Security Agreements) pensionary benefits of Indian workers and professionals working overseas are both portables.
6	General Laws	Several provisions have been put in place to attract investment from the Indian diaspora, ranging from special incentives for bank deposits, equity market investments, and specific special conditions for OCIs and Foreign Direct Investment NRIs.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Much as the Indian diaspora in their host countries influences policy, this phenomenon has also reversed itself as the diaspora finds growing significance in the politics of the homeland. The Government of India organises the Pravasi

Bharatiya Divas every two years, a conference which seeks to acknowledge the achievements of expatriates and serves as an avenue for significant policy announcements. The wealth and clout of the diaspora in recent years have put them in a position for the government to consider issues such as dual citizenship, the right to vote from outside India, and parliamentary representation.

The changes in the Indian government's attitude and policies to the Indian Diaspora can be divided into three phases: the colonial period, the Nehruvian period, and the era of liberalisation. The present government is also marking a new era in that it has taken the Indian diaspora more seriously. During the colonial era, the British Government of India provided Indian citizens travelling to various countries with no assistance or protection and exploited them for their own gains. The indentured migration of labour led by the British created a different diaspora class, and in 1920 the indentureship ended only after the conscious efforts of many nationalists like Gandhi and Gokhle.

The attitude of the Indian government was also not very encouraging for the Indian diaspora in the early years after independence. The strategy towards the Indian diaspora in this period is termed as the Nehruvian model. The Indian Diaspora could not expect the Indian government to fight for their rights during this time. The Indian foreign policy was structured in other countries as a model for non-interference in their affairs. This generated a sense of mistrust towards the Indian government within the diaspora.

14.6 DEFINING POLICY AND DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

The definition of "diaspora engagement strategy" is characterised by the growing position of the diaspora and their home country establishment. As a result, the Indian diaspora has become more relevant than ever before. At first glance, these homogeneous groups are very fluid within (Spagnul, 2010) and become a ramp for other migrants from the country of origin (Tölölyan, 1996). 'Diaspora engagement policy' is a crucial avenue for migrant sources to communicate with their diasporas. These initiatives form government development plans involving numerous non-state actors. Policies of diaspora participation highlight social status, political or religious belief, and the status and conditions of the destination country.

Diaspora partnership policies provide emigrants and diaspora members with a set of rights and responsibilities through policies on the citizenship of their countries of origin (e.g. tax regimes, portability of rights and acceptance of qualifications) through electoral rights (Weinar, 2014). Scholars have explored the connections between different policy proposals from different perspectives. (Gamlen, 2006). They distinguish two frameworks for interaction with Diaspora: the first for building diaspora and the second for binding emigrants from home with a set of rights and obligations. Thus, Diaspora participation is focused on numerous collaborative projects and programs and can be explained based on the following concept:

1. Growing awareness
2. Entrepreneurship of the diaspora

3. Information transfer
4. Building capacity
5. Funding for programs for migration and development
6. Hometown projects association

These actions are carried out by numerous stakeholders, including international organisations, government and non-government organisations and diaspora organisations. They deal with migration problems, foster start-ups and small enterprises in the country of origin, encourage information transfer, provide capacity building and financial support.

The link between interaction with the diaspora and the migration-development link is now an essential subject for highly developed and developing countries. The first generally deals with the overall flow of migrants and refugees into their communities. The second concerns the introduction of migrant return programs and the issue of transfers. The commitment of diaspora and migrant investments were seen as a new and evolving sector capable of developing countries of origin and residence. This includes expertise and skills, superior technology, better corporate practices and emerging markets' financial capital. Governments and civil society organisations in recent years have worked together to achieve this positive effect, reflecting the call for an action plan of civil society for better models and framing that promote the participation of diasporas and migrant associations as entrepreneurs, social investors, policy advocates and collaborators in identifying and achieving goals for all human growth.

Interaction with the diaspora has become a mainstay in the world of growth. However, current policies indicate that this could change. For example, the Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination Group (DEMAC) was launched in 2015 to enhance “the emergency response capability of the diaspora and coordination with the traditional humanitarian framework” (DEMAC 2015). As DEMAC (2015) states, “Diasporas are key players in disaster and man-made crisis response, capable of mobilising assistance rapidly, channelling information, analysis and advocacy; yet, diaspora emergency response is mainly provided in tandem with existing international and national structures and frameworks to coordinate the response to humanitarian disasters.” The diaspora has a proven capacity to send emergency funds and supplies to meet the victims' emergency needs. Funds are also mobilised and circulated by private media. Contributions of this kind extend beyond local association and are based on a sense of patriotism or religious duty towards the affected “(UNDP 2009).

Stephan Castles (2008) points out that growth policy cannot minimise foreign migration because higher levels of development bring about more mobility, not less mobility – at least for a significant time. Most experts agree that economic and human growth does not lead directly to a reduced migration. There are numerous push drivers for migration: conflict, political repression, persecution, economic pressures, joblessness, and insecure and dangerous working conditions (CONCORD, 2011). However, given the interdependence between migration and growth, it is inappropriate that policymakers still consider that the development of the countries of origin is capable of transforming migration from the least developed to the more advanced.

In this context, diaspora engagement policies could be characterised as governmental or non-governmental actions aimed at capturing and channelling of measures to monitor remittances by immigrants or descendants, the implementation of migrants' return programs, the introduction of symbolic and rhetorical diaspora calls to preserve emigrant loyalties and links to their countries of origin. These policies not only alter the political and institutional landscape of many states but also their fundamental terms of citizenship and sovereignty.

14.7 DIASPORA INFLUENCES ON FOREIGN POLICY

Historical analyses of migrant populations show a large degree of political participation. There are currently many ways that can be commonly observed, many similar to those historical forms in which several political events, both electoral and non-electoral, are organised and performed by internationally dispersed social movements. To engage the political interests of diaspora communities, homeland nation-states themselves should reach out. One way for countries to access migrants is to make arrangements for dual citizenship and nationality. In the prevalence of dual citizenship/nationality, there is now an upward global trend, both in terms of individuals getting it and states authorising it.

The scholar Milton J. Esman (2009) described nine diaspora-related problems that may trigger tensions between sending and receiving countries, as mentioned below:

1. Maintenance by some members of the diaspora communities of transnational existence;
2. Diasporas' attempts to control policies in their countries of origin
3. The attempts of the diasporas to control the policies of their new host countries or the policies of foreign organisations to behave in support or opposition to the interests of their home countries' current government
4. Attempts of home governments to use their diasporas to support their political or economic objectives
5. Diasporas may seek their home governments' protection
6. To support its strategic or economic objectives, a host government can call on a resident diaspora
7. Diasporas may contribute to their former homeland's growth
8. The home government can request the host government to restrain members of the diaspora from hostile actions
9. Diasporas may participate in various illicit transnational activities, such as terrorism or organized crime

The issue of homelands is another significant condition influencing the degree of impact that a diaspora can exert on foreign policy. The majority of the world's population is divided into ethnic homelands-territories with names that represent a specific population-as shown in ethnographic atlases. On the ethnic

map, the territorial boundaries of states were superimposed with a cavalier disregard for ethnic domestic nations. Diasporas can also be directly involved in the promoting and encouraging conflict, diasporic communities. Financial support may flow from different parts of a diaspora to insurrectionist movements or attempts by a specific government to remove them. Two or more diasporas might be pitted against each other when there is an inter-ethnic dispute, as was evident in Bosnia's break-up. With the money they send home, according to a World Bank Study, they will increase the likelihood of renewed conflict in the years immediately after an upheaval.

The threat posed by anti-democratic diaspora strategies emphasises that democratic countries need to have adequate policy responses. Policies would be necessary, but with caution, to encourage accountability and democracy in society. The communities of the diaspora should not be alienated. Political answers should combine the monitoring of international intervention with civil society outreach.

14.8 CHALLENGES OF DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Diaspora involvement is not easy or automatic. According to the International Organisation for Migration (2012), the "Diasporas for Development Strategy" poses a range of significant policy challenges, such as

- how best to identify and incorporate the priorities and agenda of diasporas in established development strategies,
- how to create trust among stakeholders,
- how to establish successful working partnerships,
- how to incorporate diasporas effectively.

Entry of capital and technological support are additional diaspora obstacles (Allen, Opoku-Owusu and Rodima-Taylor, 2016). It is recommended that the government and other stakeholders establish and enforce a quality diaspora engagement policy:

- • Develop sound methodologies for diaspora mapping.
- Apply multiple channels of outreach.
- Ensure more affordable access to legal status in host countries.
- Enable dual citizenship.
- Lower visa costs.
- Organise the work of different stakeholders and design financial instruments to attract diaspora

Table 2 summarises key guidelines for facilitating and fostering domestic diaspora investment.

Table 2. Recommendations for designing diaspora engagement policy

Precondition	Recommendations
Enabling environment	Enabling legal and regulatory framework, and removing obstacles (administrative, legal, fiscal, citizenship issues, etc.)
	Inclusion of civil society efforts in engaging diaspora
	Public-private partnerships
	Access to property and land, which is often a barrier to investments
Financial and technical support	Access to finance (loans, grants)
	Provision of investment incentives (tax breaks, variety of financial products)
	Business training and skills development
	Technical support and coordination among different actors (agencies, chambers, etc.)
Gathering information	Data collection, research and study of best practices
	Networking, organization of business events for diaspora entrepreneurs, matching local entrepreneurs, governments and organizations with foreign counterparts, establishing platforms for information and idea-sharing
	Solid reporting lines and exchange of information between ministries and government institutions in charge of diaspora and consular offices and institutions abroad

The framing and implementation of national policies to manage migration issues such as cooperation with the diaspora, prevention of brain drain or potentially attracting migrants back to the country of origin are becoming increasingly important at the time of increased migration flows. With the advancement of technology, the digitization of the economy and other new global developments, human capital and creativity are some of the most significant sources of growth. The migration of highly skilled workers is, therefore, a challenge, especially for developing or less developed countries. Attracting highly skilled labour and brain trust in the diaspora is now seen as an essential part of national development strategies, particularly at a time when technological innovation has dramatically enabled linkages and contact between migrants and their countries of origin, thereby changing the prospects for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience.

The diaspora can be a valuable source of money, skills, information and expertise. Recommendations for the development of policies to engage the diaspora in national development include, firstly, mapping the diaspora and making it aware of its unique characteristics, priorities and needs, and, secondly, ensuring a welcoming and secure business and legal climate, ensuring access to capital and business training and access to knowledge. Diaspora or foreign direct investment will never replace national growth and investment programs and should be seen as a supplement to national capital and policies.

14.9 LET US SUM UP

New and increased migration flows pose new challenges to migration and diaspora policies. Investment in diaspora and entrepreneurship can be important development factors, as noted. Engaging the diaspora in national development involves translating investment participation into action, and this must be accompanied by sufficient access to finance, good public-private partnerships, business training and skills development, as well as other policy initiatives. Moreover, investment instruments and financial instruments that take advantage of diaspora capital need to be diversified. Governments can attract diaspora

investors by providing tax cuts, training, stable policy setting, enabling the transfer of funds, etc. Furthermore, skills growth, training and capacity building are crucial to stimulating and encouraging the growing commitment of the diaspora. Creating formal and informal networks and other information outlets is also conducive to engaging the diaspora and improving relationships.

Check your progress 2

- Note: a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

3. Define “diaspora engagement strategy”

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4. What are the diaspora-related problems that may trigger tensions between sending and host countries?

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14.10 KEY WORDS

Ethnopolitical: Relating to the politics of race or ethnicity; involving both ethnic and political factors.

Hard Power: A coercive approach to international political relations, especially one that involves the use of military power.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas : Non-Resident Indian Day is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2015) on 09 January by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.

ASEAN : The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

DEMAC : Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination (DEMAC) project is implemented by Danish Refugee Council, AFFORD-UK, and the Berghof Foundation to improve diaspora emergency response capacity and coordination with the conventional humanitarian system.

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14.12 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS – POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check your progress 1

1. Soft power has a sizable influence on the decisions made by individuals, businesses, and governments. Soft power is the capacity to attract and co-opt, rather than coerce, others in international politics (contrast hard power). In other words, soft power is the process of influencing others' preferences through appeal and attraction. Its non-coercive nature defines soft power; its currency consists of culture, political values, and foreign policies. Power is the ability to influence others to achieve one's desired outcomes, which can be accomplished through coercion, payment, or attraction and persuasion. Soft power refers to the ability to achieve desired outcomes through attraction rather than coercion or payment. This anecdotal comment recounts the concept's origins as an analytical tool and its gradual evolution as an instrumental concept used in political discourse in Europe, China, and the United States.
2. The use of the Diaspora as a tool for foreign policy is relatively recent and only gained traction in the liberalised post-cold war period. Indian Diaspora can become a force in Indian Foreign Policy when dealing with the countries of South-East Asia. It is evident that Soft Power may be a necessary condition for achieving goals, but is not a sufficient condition. This is because Foreign Policy outcomes are not unilateral decisions. Their success depends on other nations. Their interests play a crucial role in how successful we are. If our goals are opposed to their national interests, they will not tow our line even if they like our culture and civilization.

Check your progress 2

3. The definition of “diaspora engagement strategy” is characterised by the growing position of the Diaspora and the establishment between its members of different networks. Diaspora is more significant than ever. At first glance, these homogeneous groups are very fluid within (Spagnul, 2010). Diaspora may, in many cases, be a start ramp for other migrants from the country of origin (Tölölyan, 1996). ‘Diaspora engagement policy’ is a crucial avenue for migrant sources to communicate with their diasporas.
4. The scholar Milton J. Esman (Esman, 2009) described nine diaspora-related problems that may trigger tensions between sending and receiving countries, as mentioned below:
 - a. Maintenance by some members of the diaspora communities of transnational existence.
 - b. Diasporas’ attempts to control policies in their countries of origin;
 - c. The attempts of the Diasporas to control the policies of their new host countries or the policies of foreign organizations to behave in support or opposition to the interests of their home countries’ current government.
 - d. Attempts of home governments to use their diasporas to support their political or economic objectives;
 - e. Diasporas may seek their home governments’ protection;
 - f. To support its strategic or economic objectives, a host government can call on a resident diaspora;
 - g. Diasporas may contribute to their former homeland’s growth;
 - h. The home government can request the host government to restrain members of the diaspora from hostile actions;
 - i. Diasporas may participate in various illicit transnational activities, such as terrorism or organized crime.