



The Rise Of Paradiplomacy: Assessing Its Role In Global Diplomacy Since 2000 Till Present In India

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Abstract:

Within the ever-changing field of international relations, paradiplomacy has become a prominent phenomenon that is transforming conventional understandings of diplomacy. This article explores the development and effects of paradiplomacy since the year 2000, emphasizing how well it works to negotiate the challenges of international diplomacy. The paper examines the many facets of paradiplomacy, from cultural interchange and economic cooperation to environmental governance and economic cooperation, through a thorough examination of case studies and theoretical frameworks. The paper explores the reasons behind sub-national entities' engagement in paradiplomatic activities and the tactics they use to accomplish their goals on the international scene, using examples from different parts of the world. It also looks into the potential and difficulties that come with paradiplomatic activities, such as problems with legitimacy, sovereignty, and coordination with central governments. This paper provides a sophisticated perspective of the value of paradiplomacy in modern global diplomacy by combining empirical data and theoretical insights. It makes the case that although paradiplomacy offers sub-national actors new ways to pursue their goals and address local issues on the global stage, its efficacy depends on a number of variables, such as institutional capacity, political will, and the type of intergovernmental relations. In conclusion, the study reflects on the implications of the rise of paradiplomacy for the future of diplomacy, suggesting avenues for further research and policy considerations to harness the potential of sub-national engagement in advancing shared global goals and fostering cooperation in an increasingly interconnected world.

Keywords : Paradiplomacy, diplomacy, sub-national actors, foreign policy.

INTRODUCTION:

Para-diplomacy stands for the ministries, federal units or sub national entities promoting their state's interests and represents the whole nation on the international arena (PAQUIN, 2019). Para-diplomacy has emerged as an important tool in the foreign policy tool kit. Para-diplomacy engages the federal state into the foreign policy formulations and direct foreign negotiations.

Major benefits that can be attached to Para-diplomacy are the enhanced representation of sub-national entities on the global spheres (Martínez, 2017). It also brings the sub national entities in touch with the new and emerging technologies, ways, cuisines, attires, business, etc. It automatically brings facilitates the new ideas' exchange. In other words, we can say that it leads to decentralization of ideas, resources, technologies, art forms, etc.

Major motivation behind the regional aspirations in the international arena is multifold. But the most major political reason seems to be the regional aspiration to be recognized as a nation on the international arena. For this purpose, main leaders of that region establish foreign contacts. All this takes place for the hope of recognition for the region as state on international podium. All regional contact acts as a tool for lobbying for the same cause. There are several such examples such as Catalonia in Spain, Basque country, etc. So, Para-diplomacy acts as major tools for the leaders of these regions for their claim of statehood as international relations (Keating, 2000).

Another major push towards the external seeking of friends by regions comes from the free trade agreements between nations. It generally sidelines the regional agenda by giving foreign players direct access to the regional resources, without addressing the needs of the regions (Keating, 2000). Because of these reasons, the leaders of sub-national regions tries to get their trade needs met by collaborating with the like-minded sub-national entities of another nation. By acting in this very way, they again boost their agenda which was being sidelined by the host nation through its overlapping and all-encompassing (on the principle of one size fits all). These sub-national partners then set their agenda with mutual respect to each other's needs, bypassing the overall agenda of the host nations.

Cultural exchanges form a major part of the Para-diplomatic efforts by the sub-national actors. If we talk specifically, languages are the strongest push factor for the sub-national actors to seek international partners (Keating, 2000).people speaking same languages but living in different regions try to be in contact with each way or another. For example, one can see in the Basque country, Catalonia, etc. In similar way, race and religion also forms the major factor in ensuring Para-diplomacy. Proximity of Tamil leaders to that of Srilanka can be seen as an apt example of this phenomenon. Race has always being he powerful factor governing many international events. One can't forget the role of Slav race during the World War I. So, it's very obvious that it will be used by sub national leaders as a means to establish contact with the world outside the host country.

One major reason behind the Para-diplomatic efforts can be seen in economic terms. Economically, sub-national entities try to lure more and more of foreign capital and technology transfer (Keating, 2000). However, it comes with the risk of the dependency in economic terms as foreign capital can leave the region anytime. Thus, it is equally important to boost and support the small and medium industries in the region and promote the export capabilities of those entities. In spite of these fallbacks, economic growth forms the major pillar of the Para-diplomatic reach out. One more concern which seems to be new in the area of economic relations is the security concerns and environmental concerns. So, proper monitoring to tackle these two

fallbacks has to be placed. But most of the sub-national entities seem to be incapable without the support of host countries.

India's experience in Para diplomacy

Indian constitution makers envisaged India to be a federal unit with unitary bias. So, India is a union of states which allow for limited autonomy to its sub-national elements. However, this autonomy did not mean to totally overpower the sense of integrity of the nation. In India, the Union and the states have well defined roles in terms of legislative authority. The Indian Constitution's Article 246 calls for a threefold division of legislative authority between the federal government and the states. "Within the domain of foreign affairs, trade and commerce with foreign nations, participation in international conferences, signing treaties, agreements, and conventions, foreign jurisdiction, and import and export being the areas where only the Union government is considered competent to legislate." The federalization of foreign policy is an important step in this perspective (Tewari, 2017).

If we see this notion of autonomy of sub national entities, then the concept of paradiplomacy seems quite apt. But herein, the autonomy of the sub national entities must be in the boundaries of the overall fulfillment of the host country. In other words, Sub national entities can't go against the overall interest of the host country.

In India the concept of paradiplomacy has seen major highlight in the recent times. Early in 2015, one month prior to PM Modi's official visit to China, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) requested that Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, lead a prominent delegation to China in April (Tewari, 2017). PM Modi invited Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, in his official delegation of 13 when he visited Bangladesh in June 2015. When Manmohan Singh, PM Modi's predecessor, visited Bangladesh in September 2011, he brought along four chief ministers from the northeastern Indian states that border Bangladesh (Tewari, 2017). It is a very new tradition for the MEA to ask a chief minister to head a delegation abroad prior to a prime ministerial visit, or for chief ministers to accompany prime ministers on foreign trips (Tewari, 2017).

Indian state has been moving towards the para diplomatic stints. Indian prime minister Modi was very much supporter of the para diplomacy when he was chief minister of Indian state of Gujarat. After becoming prime minister, in October 2013, in Chennai, Modi criticized the previous policy of the central government in the following way: "India is not just Delhi. The foreign policy should be decided by the people and not by some politicians sitting in Delhi" (Bywalec, 2018). India state was not always this welcoming to the idea of para diplomacy. In the era of strong central governments in initial days after the independence, there was centralising tendency in almost all the aspects of governing, including foreign policy. But as the political situation changed, the views about paradiplomacy also changed. As in 1989 onwards, Indian political scape saw the rise of coalition politics. It saw emergence of local and regional voices in the parliament. So, states started to get their say in foreign policy too (Bywalec, 2018).

Secondly, in 1991, when India saw the LPG reforms under the Narasimha Rao's government and finance minister Manmohan Singh, the views surrounding the paradiplomacy again shifted in its favour. It mainly happened due to two reasons – first is the opening of economy shifted the focus from heavy industries to other products too. So, Indian states then got the opportunity to push their products in global market. This enhanced their reach in the discussions over the foreign policy of the nation. Secondly, state government then

used to enjoy more freedom to choose the location of the economic activities according to their will. This allowed them to come up with wooing packages for MNCs to come and invest in their states. Even now many states try to organize Expos every year to lure foreign companies. Thus, this also allowed state to gather international mileage. LPG reforms opened up the market such that chief ministers from different states started to visit foreign to bring out investors. This era was metaphorically be called as “the flying chiefministers”. In this context, Gujarat's Chief Minister Narendra Modi led the way, but others followed suit, such as Nitish Kumar, the former Chief Minister of Bihar. or Shivraj Singh Chauhan, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (Bywalec, 2018). When in 2012, Nitish Kumar traveled to Pakistan and saw not just the authorities from Punjab's and Sindh's border provinces, but they also met with President Zardari, Asif Ali (Bywalec, 2018). This demonstrates that, thus far, the growth of paradiplomacy in India has been bottom-up, with the states responding to the new political and economic landscape. Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal of Himachal Pradesh was invited by California Governor Arnold Schwarzeneger to the Global Summit on Climate Change in 2010, and Prithviraj Chavan of Maharashtra led the delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2014 (Bywalec, 2018). In 2011, the chief minister of Bihar, the poorest state in India, visited China and held meetings with numerous regional leaders. It is evident that states have made a greater effort in the past two decades to draw in influential commercial and political figures from around the globe. Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder, and the President Bill Clinton of the United States paid a visit to Hyderabad, while the Japanese Prime Minister Lee Peng with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori visited the state capital of Karnataka, Bangalore, the second in the world, the computing industry's epicenter after Silicon Valley (Bywalec, 2018).

NEW CHANGES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS DUE TO PARADIPLMACY

Paradiplomacy, the diplomatic activities of subnational entities such as states, regions, and cities, offers several significant benefits:

1. Enhanced Representation: Paradiplomacy provides subnational entities with a platform to represent their interests on the global stage, ensuring their voices are heard in international affairs.
2. Economic Development: Paradiplomacy can attract foreign investment, foster trade agreements, and promote economic partnerships, leading to increased economic development and prosperity at the subnational level.
3. Cultural Exchange: Subnational diplomacy allows for cultural exchanges, fostering understanding and cooperation between different regions and nations, promoting tourism, and enriching cultural diversity.
4. Political Autonomy: Paradiplomacy empowers subnational entities to pursue their own foreign policy objectives, independent of the national government, enabling them to address issues specific to their region's needs and priorities.

5. **Innovation and Knowledge Sharing:** Subnational diplomacy facilitates the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovations between regions, leading to mutual learning and advancement in various fields such as technology, education, and healthcare.
6. **Conflict Resolution:** Paradiplomacy can serve as a tool for conflict resolution by promoting dialogue and cooperation between neighboring regions or states, helping to mitigate tensions and resolve disputes peacefully.
7. **Global Networking:** Engaging in paradiplomacy allows subnational entities to build networks and establish relationships with other regions and countries, opening up opportunities for collaboration, joint initiatives, and mutual support.
8. **Capacity Building:** Participating in diplomatic activities builds the capacity of subnational governments and institutions, enhancing their administrative skills, negotiation capabilities, and international visibility.
9. **Democratic Governance:** Paradiplomacy can contribute to the promotion of democratic governance by increasing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in international decision-making processes at the subnational level.
10. **Resilience and Adaptation:** Subnational diplomacy enables regions to adapt to global challenges such as climate change, migration, and pandemics by fostering cooperation, sharing resources, and implementing joint strategies to address common issues.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, India's approach to international diplomacy has undergone a radical change since the emergence of paradiplomacy in 2000, underscoring both its opportunities and its drawbacks. As Indian states and territories look to establish their interests on the international stage, paradiplomacy—defined as the involvement of subnational entities in international relations—has gained prominence. This occurrence highlights how dynamic modern diplomacy is, with various levels of engagement enhancing a country's foreign policy.

The strategic application of paradiplomacy has been demonstrated by Indian states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat. Gujarat, under the direction of the late Chief Minister Narendra Modi, successfully promoted international trade and attracted foreign investment through the use of paradiplomacy. The state's proactive diplomacy with nations like the US, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates has boosted its stature internationally and promoted economic progress. In a similar vein, Maharashtra's involvement in a number of international trade shows and its strategic alliances with major tech hubs highlight the state's contribution to strengthening India's standing internationally.

There are many advantages to paradiplomacy. Initially, it facilitates areas to effectively tackle their distinct economic and social requirements by collaborating with global entities that may offer tailored assistance. This localized strategy may promote more inventive and effective problem-solving. For example, Tamil Nadu's green energy sector has advanced greatly due to its collaboration with Germany in renewable energy technologies. Additionally, by drawing in foreign capital and encouraging cross-cultural interactions, paradiplomacy promotes regional development.

But there are also significant obstacles associated with the emergence of paradiplomacy. The possibility of competing interests between regional and central governments is one of the main hazards. Coherent foreign policy goals may be undermined and diplomatic dissonance may result when state-level paradiplomatic endeavors deviate from national priorities. For instance, certain agreements at the state level could unintentionally clash with those at the federal level, creating challenges for international discussions. Furthermore, the possibility of overlapping jurisdictions and redundant efforts exists, which may reduce the efficacy of diplomatic interactions.

Moreover, because economically developed governments are better positioned to take advantage of global opportunities than less developed regions, paradiplomacy can occasionally make regional imbalances worse. This imbalance may cause differences in regional growth by enlarging the developmental divide within the nation.

In conclusion, the emergence of paradiplomacy in India has given international diplomacy a new, complicated, and exciting facet. It requires careful management of possible disputes and imbalances even while it presents great opportunity for international participation and regional development. The incorporation of paradiplomacy into the larger framework of national foreign policy would be essential for India to maximize its advantages and minimize related risks as it navigates this changing terrain.

