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3	India and International Legal Politics	From Norm- Taker to Norm Shaper	Dr. Ravichandra Walikar	Pol,Science		2026	978-93-47508-61-5
4	India and International Legal Politics	Between Power and Law	Dr. Ravichandra Walikar	Pol,Science		2026	978-93-47508-61-5

UNFOLDING REALITIES

MULTIDIMENSIONAL ISSUES OF NORTH EAST INDIA

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CHAPTER 10

Cultural Pluralism and Nation Building in North East India

Dr. Ravichandra Walikar and Guranna Venkanagouda Raraddi

Introduction

> "India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition."
>
> Mark Twain

The North East region of India occupies a distinctive place in the country's cultural, political, and geographical landscape. Comprising eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim – the region is home to a remarkable diversity of ethnic groups, languages, customs, and belief systems. This pluralism has given the North East its rich cultural texture, but it has also posed complex challenges to the project of national integration and nation-building. The process of nation-building in such a heterogeneous context involves balancing unity with diversity, integration with autonomy, and development with identity preservation.

Cultural pluralism in the North East reflects the coexistence of multiple tribal and non-tribal communities, each possessing distinct socio-political institutions and cultural heritages. Historically, the region's encounter with colonial rule, postcolonial state policies, and globalisation has transformed its socio-cultural dynamics. British colonial administration introduced new boundaries, administrative structures, and categories of governance that reshaped traditional institutions. After Independence, the Indian state sought to integrate the North East through constitutional measures, political representation, and development initiatives. However, persistent issues

EMERGING ISSUES OF POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Edited by

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CHAPTER 3

Emerging Political Dynamics in North-East India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects

Dr. Ravichandra Walikar and Guranna Venkanagouda Raraddi

Introduction

North-East India, comprising eight states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim – occupies a distinctive position in the Indian Union due to its geographical location, ethnic diversity, and strategic significance. Surrounded by international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, the region has long been a crossroads of cultures, communities, and political interactions. Its multi-ethnic composition, rich natural resources, and geo-political importance make it both a vibrant and sensitive part of India.

The political dynamics of the region have historically been shaped by identity-based movements, insurgency, migration, demands for autonomy, and tensions in centre–state relations. These issues have not only posed challenges to governance but have also hindered developmental efforts, leading to feelings of alienation and marginalisation among local communities. At the same time, recent trends – such as peace accords, enhanced connectivity, economic integration, and the growing role of democratic institutions – reflect opportunities for positive transformation. Understanding the emerging political dynamics in North-East India requires an examination of both its challenges and its prospects. It involves addressing questions of ethnic identity and integration, federalism and decentralisation, conflict and peace-building, as well as the balance between tradition and modernity. Against this backdrop, the present study seeks to analyse the issues, challenges, and future

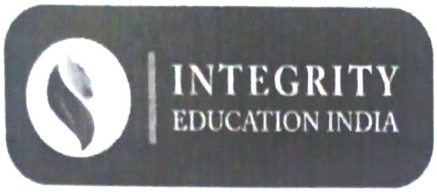
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Chapter-9

From Norm-Taker to Norm-Shaper: India in the Restructuring of the Global Political Order

Sri. Ravikumar Arali[1] *Dr. Ravichandra Walikar*[2]

Introduction

"The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born,"- Antonio Gramsci, capturing the turbulence that defines moments of historical transition. The twenty-first century represents precisely such a moment in global politics. The certainties of the post–Cold War unipolar order have steadily eroded, giving way to complex patterns of multipolarity, regional assertion, economic interdependence, technological rivalry, and renewed geopolitical contestation (Ikenberry, 2018). Institutions created in the aftermath of the Second World War most prominently the United Nations now face demands for reform as emerging powers seek greater voice and representation. In this shifting terrain, India has moved from the margins of global decision-making to a position of increasing strategic centrality. The restructuring of the global political order is not merely about redistribution of material power; it is also about the contestation of norms, rules, and legitimacy. As Henry Kissinger observed, "Each generation must define what world order means to it." Today's generation confronts pressing global challenges climate change, pandemics, cyber governance, energy transitions, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and maritime security that transcend national boundaries. These issues expose the limits of existing governance mechanisms and highlight the urgency of institutional innovation. Within this broader transformation, India's foreign policy trajectory reflects both pragmatic adaptation and normative ambition (Jaishankar, 2020).

India's rise is underpinned by structural shifts: sustained economic growth, demographic advantage, technological innovation, and expanding diplomatic outreach. Yet its role cannot be reduced to quantitative metrics of power alone. Historically shaped by colonial experience and post-independence non-alignment, India has long emphasized sovereign equality, anti-colonial solidarity, and developmental justice. In the contemporary era, these principles are reframed through concepts such as strategic autonomy and inclusive multilateralism. India's engagement in forums such as the BRICS, the G20, and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue illustrates its multi-layered strategy simultaneously reformist within

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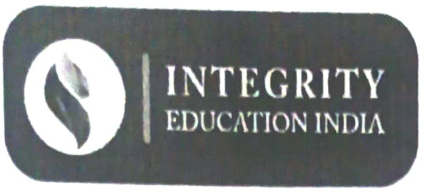
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Chapter- 10

Between Power and Law: India in the Transformation of International Legal Politics

Sri. Yallappa Mugalihal[1] Dr. Ravichandra Walikar[2]

Introduction

"Law is not above politics, but neither is it merely its servant."Martti Koskenniemi (Koskenniemi, 2005).The twenty-first century has ushered in a period of profound transformation in the structure and functioning of the international system. The relative decline of unipolar dominance, the steady rise of emerging powers, the resurgence of geopolitical competition, and the growing skepticism toward established multilateral institutions have collectively altered the foundations of global governance (Acharya, 2014). In this changing environment, the international legal order is not merely adapting to shifts in power—it is itself becoming a central arena where these shifts are contested, negotiated, and institutionalised. International law today operates at the intersection of power and principle, shaping and being shaped by the political realities of a rapidly evolving world. For much of the post–Cold War period, the global order was characterised by a dominant liberal institutional framework largely influenced by Western powers. Institutions such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank played pivotal roles in regulating state conduct and structuring global economic and security relations. However, mounting dissatisfaction with unequal representation, selective enforcement of norms, and structural imbalances has triggered renewed debates about reforming these institutions. Simultaneously, emerging economies have begun to assert greater influence, calling for a more inclusive and equitable international legal framework. The transition toward multi-polarity has therefore intensified struggles over who makes the rules, how they are interpreted, and whose interests they ultimately serve.

Within this shifting global context, India occupies a uniquely significant position. As one of the world's largest democracies, a rapidly growing economy, a nuclear power, and an influential voice of the Global South, India stands at the crossroads of continuity and change in international legal politics. Historically shaped by colonial experience and the principles of non-alignment, India's foreign policy has

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