CHAPTER I

Introduction
Introduction:

India and Iran have had a rich civilisational history going back several millennia. There have been many ups and downs in the trajectory of India-Iran relations. The rapidly shifting international environment and the concomitant strategic imperatives have been a major factor in forcing the two nations to reorient their foreign policies towards each other. In contemporary times, India has not only deepened this relationship but expanded it to cover wide-ranging political, economic and security aspects. On the one hand, giving adequate thrust to cooperation in Science and Technology and on the other, Information Technology as a niche area is further drawing the two sides closer.

The importance of Iran for India is broad and varied. Iran’s relevance lies in its geostrategic position, energy resources and providing access to the Central Asian region. Importantly, it plays a pivotal role in a number of regional configurations in the Persian Gulf, in Afghanistan and the Caspian Basin and thus adds its significance for India. Since 1947, the Indian leadership has underlined the strategic importance of Iran for India. Even before India’s independence, during the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran in 1941 to secure Iranian oil fields, Jawaharlal Nehru was supportive of the withdrawal of Russian forces from Iran.

Post independence, India developed closer ties with Egypt and tried to establish cordial relations with Iran. During the Shah’s regime, while Iran was close to the US and part of the Western military alliance, India followed a non-aligned approach. During this period despite a number of high level visits, India-Iran relations never truly matured. Iran participated in the first Inter-Asia Relations Conference held in New Delhi on April 2, 1947. Later, the Shah of Iran visited India in February 1956 and Nehru paid a return visit to Tehran in September 1959. However, the Iran-China-Pakistan alliance, Western hostility and Iran’s proximity to the US and its aspiration to play an active role in the Gulf stymied India-Iran relations from growing beyond a point.

After the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, the 1990-91 Kuwait crisis, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the disintegration of the Soviet Union leading to the end of Cold War and identical security threat perceptions brought about a phase of renewed engagement with
a number of high level visits by both the sides. The changed security paradigm compelled Iran to enhance its ties with India. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao’s visit to Tehran in 1993 was a turning point in improving ties between India and Iran. Relations between the two were further strengthened during Prime Minister Vajpayee’s visit to Iran in April 2001. During this visit the ‘Tehran Declaration’ and several important economic and trade cooperation agreements were signed. In his meeting with Prime Minister Vajpayee, President Khatami repeatedly mentioned about the need for “special relationship” with “strategic links” which would not only meet interests of both the states but would also help bring peace and stability to the region. These statements were indicative of Iran placing India in its strategic priority.

The strategic cooperation between India and Iran got a further fillip during President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami’s visit in January 2003 and culminated in the signing of the ‘New Delhi Declaration’. Thus a new chapter in strategic engagement between two important regional powers was being framed. In the Delhi Declaration, both sides affirmed that “their growing strategic convergence needs to be underpinned with a strong economic relationship, including greater trade and investment flows.” The declaration noted the urgency of “enabling legislations to promote vigorous trade and economic exchanges” as “primary requirements to promote business confidence between the entrepreneurs of the two countries”. The initiative of enhancing cooperation in economic, energy, political and security arena was taken up during subsequent high-level visits by both sides.

A string of visits in the recent past with Indian Foreign Secretary, Shiv Shankar Menon’s visit to Tehran in December 2007, President Ahmadinejad’s coming to Delhi in April 2008 and External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee’s visit to Tehran in November 2008 have given a set of directions to Indo-Iran ties. Given India’s interest in deepening ties with Iran, future relationship is likely to prove of great significance and value.

Iran’s role in the global energy market is of importance for India. Iran is India’s fifth largest supplier of oil. Both the countries stand to gain by increasing cooperation, especially in the area of energy. There is an ongoing cooperation between the National Security Councils of the two countries. Both countries remain committed to multilateral negotiations on nuclear
disarmament under effective international control. India has recognised the inalienable national right of Iran to develop its own peaceful nuclear programme.

The trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan to develop the Chahbahar route through Melak, Zaranj and Delaram will facilitate regional trade and transit, including to Afghanistan and Central Asia, contributing thus to enhanced regional economic prosperity. The developments in the Eurasian region too draw considerable attention both from New Delhi and Tehran.

The growing strategic convergence has been complemented by increasing economic relationship. Trade has increased between the two countries over the last six years. In 2006-07, the total trade between the two countries was $9,071.52 million, up from $1,184.93 million in 2003-04. In 2007-2008 the total volume of trade increased upto $12896.72 million. However, it is much below the economic potential of the two countries. In April 2008, both President Ahmadinejad and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed that they will try to triple the trade (target of $30 billion) between the two countries.

**Concepts of Foreign Policy:**

Foreign policy in any country is one of the basic pillars and an important tool for protecting the national interests. In fact, foreign policy in goals is dependent on a series of national values known as identity and expediency in method, dependent on communications, informing, illustrating, agreement, and legal commitments that is known as diplomacy. Nowadays international system includes many players that affect each other and their relations form the international relations. These relations of influencing or accepting influence are not unidirectional but a set of actions and reactions appearing among the international players. By passing time, the relations among the countries are the major players of international system, becomes deeper and their influence becomes more palpable.

Extension and universalization of mutual relations among the international system members, have made the recognition of influence and taking influence difficult to be understood in a way that no country can claim surviving alone in the global community. No country can close its doors to other countries to stop their influence; vice versa, the process of intercurrence
and alliance is speeding up and is affecting all the political, cultural, and economical dimensions of all the countries. Therefore, any country for getting more benefits and fulfilling its goals should establish a stable relation with other international system players. To get this aim, planning a useful strategy in foreign policy towards other countries and recognizing the power centers are the important factors.\(^1\) Foreign policy is one of the important tools in providing territorial integrity, territorial safety, international prestige, and advancement of national programs in political, economical, social, and cultural fields.

Foreign policy means a strategy or some programs designed by the estate decision makers for achieving especial goals, in the framework of national interest and in an international environment. Briefly, it can be quoted that foreign policy includes the determination and performing a series of goals and national interest by governments. Foreign policy can be the initiative of a country or a reaction against other countries. In another words, it can be said that the direction in which a country chooses and moves in that direction and the viewpoint of the government towards international community is also called foreign policy. The foreign policy of countries are different, according to their national interests, but all of them are organised in the same framework that is a logical and rational structure. Foreign policy has various definitions accordingly.\(^2\)

K. J. Halesti in the definition of foreign policy pays attention to a country’s actions in the international environment and the internal conditions effect on these actions. In another definition foreign policy of a country codifies, performs, and evaluates the decisions that form the viewpoint of that country as an, exterritorial, and is related to the national interests of that country that intends to achieve them and is related to the achievement tools too.\(^3\) All countries struggle to adjust their foreign policy in a direction that finally fulfils the various needs of that country in a short duration in the fields of security, politics and culture.

It should be mentioned that the goals of foreign policy is not summarized just in the above-mentioned statements. Alongside the goals of short duration and emergency, the international goals of long duration being in the framework of strategic programs are also great importance for politicians. All communities even from ancient times wanted to achieve foreign policy goals had political relations with near or far countries based on some predetermined and especial principles.\(^4\)
Nowadays Geographical borders separate the countries, but they are connected to a bigger community called international community. This bigger community is like a house with 180 rooms any of them under the name of an especial country construct the international relations. They are called political units, the literature of political sciences. All these units organise their political relations in a category called foreign policy and this mission is consigned to an organisation called foreign ministry\(^5\). Foreign policy means a method and a way that government encounter problems and affairs for conserving its authority, defending its existence, and getting benefit selects.

**The importance of studying foreign policy, it can be said that:**

- This subject is an important category in every country.
- Getting some knowledge about the diplomacy of countries, gives us more knowledge about the former government and their function.
- The result of the studies on foreign policy increases the level of national awareness that entails the participation of the people in political events especially foreign policy.

The policies of a government are either concerned with their domestic affairs or international ones. Therefore, we have terms such as foreign policies and domestic policies. We can find numerous definitions pertaining to foreign policy. These definitions, having no difference in nature, unanimously indicate the same concept. The following definition seems to be the most comprehensive and the clearest one:

“Foreign policy” is the methods and procedures a government adopts while encountering foreign affairs and issues to preserve ruling authority, to defend the existence and pursue and acquire the interests of the country\(^6\)

**The Difference between Foreign and Domestic Policies:**

The first step in studying foreign policies is to identify the fundamental difference between foreign and domestic policies of countries. Some consider foreign policies as a bridge which connects the domestic policies to the international environment. This brief remark conveys a distinction between the interior and the international environments. Understanding both of
these environments is crucial in political studies. One, who aims at thorough comprehension of foreign policies, first should recognize the boundaries between these two realms.\textsuperscript{7}

**Some differences between domestic and foreign policies are as follow:**

a. **Authority**

The salient factor in distinguishing foreign policies from domestic ones is “authority”. In fact, the other criteria used to show the difference between the foreign and domestic policies of the countries are derived from this concept. Authority in the realm of domestic policies enables ruling and control and facilitates implementing the policies. However, in foreign policies it is restricted by the authority and power of other countries. Because according to the international law, countries are placed at the same level and considered equal.\textsuperscript{8}

b. **The Subject of Foreign and Domestic Policies**

Foreign policy deals with the autonomous political units with separate political power and absolute authority. While, domestic policy is concerned with the citizens in the country.

c. **Foreign and Domestic Policies Arena**

The foreign policies of a country are implemented in a wide arena i.e. the international milieu, but the domestic policies belong to the internal issues of the country. The internal arena is an integrated and unified society in which the individuals` allegiance to the government results in unity and harmony. Consequently, implementing the policies is facilitated. In the global arena, however, there is no reason for countries` allegiance to each other but their own national interests.\textsuperscript{9} The principle of authority right and pursuing national interests allow the countries to take the path which leads to meeting the needs of their own nations. Therefore, we face various stances in foreign policies.\textsuperscript{10}

d. **The tools for implementing domestic and foreign policies**

The laws in domestic policies arena, supported by executive guarantee (sanction) and the state power push the taken decisions and policies ahead. In foreign policies, however, the “laws” do not receive firm support and are replaced by international law which has executive guarantees (sanctions) such as “international etiquette”. Thus, the distinctions between foreign and domestic
policies become clear if we take into the account the differences between domestic and international laws in foreign policies. 11

Influential factors on foreign policies:

Countries have to take some factors and conditions into the account in adopting and implementing the foreign policies. Some of these influential issues in foreign policies are: geographical and strategic factors, population, economic and ideological factor. Now, we will discuss them in brief. 12

1. Geographical and strategic factors

Countries with a land of vast extent, moderate climate and sufficient resources enjoy wider course of actions in foreign policies. However, in some cases, these privileges brought about some problems and became limiting factors. After all, considering factors such as population, natural resources compel the government to adjust its foreign policies to the environmental factors. Strategic situation, access or lack of access to free sea, suitable coast, strong navy force, etc. is influential factors on foreign policies.

2. Population

Population is another prominent factor. Also, the geographical distribution of the population, literacy rate, technological skill, population growth rate and its harmony with economical growth, potential and real financial ability, and sufficient food are influential on countries’ foreign policies.

3. Economic factor

Economic issues are also decisive in foreign policies. Countries economical interdependence is a prevalent principle and basis for their foreign policies. The industrial countries critically rely on the raw materials supplied by non-industrial counties. On the other hand, the countries with agriculture-based economics depend on the industrial products and farm machinery supplied by the industrial countries. Thus, economical factor can affect the political ties between countries.
4. Ideological factor

Ideology as one of the aspects of foreign policies indicates objectives, ideas and notions of countries. Ideology can limit countries in their political ties with other countries. Namely, ideological stances and concerns make them end or improve their ties with some other countries. Ideological factor in some cased can trigger off wars. As an example we can refer to Fascism which precipitated Second World War in 1939 because of its conflicts with Communism and Liberalism.

Tools and techniques for implementing foreign policies

The adopted foreign policies shall be implemented via officials or institutions applying various tools and techniques. The correct use of these tools is highly decisive in achieving the objectives of the foreign policies and securing country’s accomplishments. The salient tools are diplomacy (political tools), economical tools, martial tools, propaganda and cultural tools. Now, each of them will be discussed.

1. Diplomacy

The term diplomacy is derived from Latin root “diplom” meaning “to fold”. The word diploma is also derived from the same root which means a folded manuscript or scroll which is granted to people with special privileges. With the passage of time the meaning has changes to a certificate granted to the government representatives. Nowadays, the word diplomat refers to people with expertise and proficiency in diplomacy. Diplomacy has been common among nations since old ages. Nowadays, it is applied by the governments to pursue and acquire their objectives and interests. One of the researchers in the field of international relationships has compiles more than 46 definitions for diplomacy each of which represents different aspect of this concept. If we are to offer a definition for diplomacy which is succinct and to the point, we can say:

“Diplomacy is a technique for administrating the foreign policies and regulating the international relationships as well as settling the international disagreements peacefully.”
Although diplomacy is an executive tool for foreign policies, economical, cultural and martial options are also available.

2. Economic tools

Another common effective technique in implementing the foreign policies is applying economical, financial, commercial and technological tools. Governments have been long using these tools widely in the realm of international relationships. Nowadays, economics turned to be one of the most important goals for the governments. This technique is applicable in various forms such as providing or withholding monetary aids, dispatching the economic experts to other countries or summoning them back, providing technology or withholding them, imposing commercial and trade embargo, economical boycott and sanctions, confiscating the assets, increasing or decreasing the custom duties and tariffs.¹⁷

3. Military tools

Martial tools are usually the final resort for the governments. In some cases, governments apply all the cultural, economical, propaganda and martial tool simultaneously. War is sometimes considered to be the end of diplomacy, but it also can activate diplomacy meanwhile and punishment and encouragement policies be used at the same time. Intimidation, providing different martial and weaponry aids are examples of martial tools in foreign policies.¹⁸

4. Propaganda and Cultural tools

This tool is also very pivotal axis in implementing foreign policies. Those who are addressed by propaganda are the nations. This tool is intended to influence the other nations` behavior. Propaganda is pursued by means of experts and professionals via news agencies, newspapers, international journals and radio and TV programs Granting university scholarships, supporting the ties between social and cultural institutions, exchange of books, journals and films, encouraging tourism, establishing cultural agencies in other countries, and mutual meeting are among common cultural tools and propaganda.¹⁹

5. Political tools

Political tools are mostly formed by skilled personnel. In the target countries they can act in such a way to lead the political processes to their own countries` interests.
Definitions of the Key Terms Used in this Study:

a. International Relations

The governments, organisations, and institutions that form the international community have cultural, economical, and political relations that show the mutual relations between them. This relation can be friendly (cooperation), competition, belligerent (quarrel or war). The expression, international relations, is said to a set of state actions and reactions and none-state institutions and the political procedures among the nations.

b. Foreign policy

Foreign policy means a strategy or some programs designed by the estate decision makers for achieving especial goals, in the framework of national interest and in an international environment. Briefly, it can be quoted that foreign policy includes the determination and performing a series of activities to safeguared national interest by both the nation.

c. Geopolitics

Geopolitics illustrates the effect of land and geographical qualifications on the position of a country in its foreign policy. This becomes important because of the geopolitics and the strategic situation of a country cause a series of different strategies from different countries. Geopolitics are constant and stable and structural element in shaping the external behaviour of governments to others and the others behaviour to the governments. Geopolitics are the most stable element in foreign policy.

d. Foreign Policy Decision

While we are studying the behaviour of the political players i.e. governments In the international politics arena in fact, we are studying the decisions that in the form of their own foreign police data enter into the international environment. The decisions that are made by different individuals, groups, and institutions of these countries appear as the behaviour of the governments in political, economical, military, and cultural backgrounds.

e. Political system
Political system includes a sequential set of political activities that a large number of agents with a special aim have accomplished it. This system includes especial institutions, groups that play a role inside a government or society for administering the orders and verdicts of that government and are structural. The whole set of these groups and institutions are called political system.

f. National interests

National interests are those interests that governments follow as a whole set and as representatives of their nations in their own political relations. Every country looks for gaining more interests in their political relations.

g. Diplomacy

Diplomacy is considered as the technique of running the foreign policy or regulating the international relations and also solving the international disagreements peacefully. Most of the times diplomacy is only one of the instruments of performing the foreign policy among other factors (economical, military, and cultural). Diplomacy is also useful in handling political, economical, cultural, and even military weapons.

Objectives of the study:

- The cultural, economic and political relationship between India and Iran will be discussed in a historical perspectives.
- This study also throws light on the diplomatic relations between the two countries will be reviewed.
- India and Iran occupies the strategic position in asian continent their role in geopolitics will be analysed.
- A part from political relationship both countries have emerged as global business nation which will be described critically.
- India is the fourth economical power in the world. For this reason, India has an important place in the foreign policy of Iran. On the other hand, Iran is one of the most important Middle East countries with a high level of stability, political independency, and rich natural and human resources that can be a strategic alliance for India.
countries have not emerged a powerful partons at global life which will be critically evaluated with research data and information.

The hypotheses:

- The national interests of Iran and India requires the development of political, cultural, economical, and security relations.

- On the one hand Iran can be a vast and potential market for developing industry and business of India, on the other hand Iran can be a huge resource of energy for the developing needs of India.

- Iran and India have strategic convergence for developing regional peace and stability. Accordingly in the Tehran proclamation in 2001 and New Delhi proclamation in 2003 Iran and India pronounced each other as strategic participants.

- By examining the existing sources, it became clear that Iran and India relation in spite of having a lot of communications in different fields, has not developed too much.

- Reviewing the historical past and old civilization of the two countries of India and Iran in Asia, moreover the two countries high level of (resources, and geopolitics), the level of political, economical, and cultural relations should develop to a higher position.

Significance of the Problem:

India at present is the second populated country in the world however it will be the most populated country in the world in 21 century. About the significance of studying the political relations of Iran and India in recent years, it should be said that India has a special significance in Asia and is considered as an international power in the world.

About the significance of Iran and India relations it should be said that Iran and India relations is not a mere political, economical, or even a historical relation but two civilizations
relations in which the two great civilizations of Iran and India have affected each other greatly. Studying the Iran-India relations is so significant that the course of India and Indian studies is triggered in the faculty of the World Studies in Tehran University proving the significance of studying Iran-India relations.

- Iran has maintained diplomatic relations with most of the countries but its relation with India is very strong and stable.

- A better understanding of the factors creating conflicts or useful cooperation between the two countries of Iran and India will be studied.

- The irritant or conflicting interests between the countries are hampering our relationship which will be studied carefully.

- Examining the ways of expanding Iran-India cooperation and inter communication in all respects.

- Presenting the theoretical and practical solutions for establishing a better relation in Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

**Methodology :**

The following methodology will be adopted in the study.

- Historical
- Descriptive
- Analytical
- Interview
- Documents

**Literature Review :**
About the studies and researches and the resulted conclusions on the subject of Iran-India political relations there are many books, scripts, and articles. The available sources related to this subjects have only paid attention to the historical, political, cultural, economic and security relation. There is also many analytical research done in a foreign policy of both the countries.

Organization of the Study:

The proposed study will be divided into VI chapters

Chapter I

The first chapter includes:

- Introduction
- Concepts of Foreign Policy
- Definitions of the Key Terms Used in this Study
- Objectives of the study
- The hypotheses
- Significance of the problem
- Methodology
- Literature Review
- Organization of the Study (chapterisation)

Chapter II

Principles and objectives of foreign policy, Iran and India
Chapter III

Indo-Iran relationship historical perspective (from ancient to modern period)

Chapter IV

Iran foreign policy with India since (1947-1989)

Chapter V

relations between India and Iran since (1990-2010)

- Political relationship
- Economic relationship
- Energy relationship
- Cultural relationship
- Security relationship

Chapter –VI

The final chapter is formed conclusion.
Reference:

1. Abdolali Ghavam “Principles of foreign policy and international policy” Samt Published, Tehran, 2001, p.12
6. Javad, Mansoori, Comments to the foreign policy of Iran, Tehran, 1986, p.11
9. Hamid, Behzadi, ibid, p.83
13. Ibid
18. Abdolali Ghavam, Ibid, p.197