The Abstract

Since the beginning 21st century, the concept of security increasingly shifted focus from its state-centric and military/strategic preoccupations of the Cold War period. This is especially so among the developing countries. However, this is not to say that the traditional military/strategic concerns of security are not part of Third World security discourse. The post-Cold War international system has also acquired an increasingly multi-polar disposition. This was occasioned by the rise of newly emergent military and economic powers, some of which are leading Third World regional hegemonies, Latin America and East Asia and Asia Pacific. One such power is India.

This state of things brings with it fresh challenges and/or opportunities as far as South-South relations are concerned. For an emerging regional power of India’s stature, the establishment of cross-regional cooperation is invariably seen as a safety net that reduces myriad security challenges. This is an underlying, often unstated element in cross-regional cooperation, between India and Africa. It is a powerful argument in favour of such arrangements that address issues of military/strategic security, trade and economic cooperation.

In this direction, India-Africa security cooperation points to the creation of frameworks for international economic, technological, and humanitarian interaction and aimed at less militarized international relations, enhanced technological innovation, better human life conditions that are both environmentally sustainable and resource efficient. It is against this premise that this paper seeks to address the gains, challenges and future prospects as far as India-Africa security cooperation is concerned. It is within the scope of this paper to examine the historical evolution of India-Africa security cooperation, the dynamics of such cooperation since the beginning of the 20th century and the concomitant challenges associated with such cooperation.