

PARADIPLOMACY

Paradiplomacy, a key concept in international relations, refers to the international activities of subnational entities such as states, provinces, regions, and cities. These actions often occur alongside, or even independently of, the central government's foreign policy. Essentially, when states or cities participate in international relations, it is known as paradiplomacy. This idea challenges the traditional Westphalian view that only sovereign states engage in diplomacy.

The term gained prominence in the 1980s and 1990s, notably through scholars such as Ivo Duchacek and Panayotis Soldatos. Duchacek referred to it as the "micro-diplomacy of subnational governments."

The Rise of Paradiplomacy

Several global changes contributed to its rise –

- (a) Globalisation relates to economic reliance, involving the decentralisation of trade and the development of global supply networks.
- (b) Urbanisation entails cities becoming economic centres, with megacities increasingly operating on a global scale.
- (c) Federalism and decentralisation grant more autonomy to states and provinces, allowing regional policies to reflect local identities.
- (d) Economic competition involves countries vying for foreign direct investment (FDI) and includes activities like investment promotion missions.

Types of Paradiplomacy

Scholars classify it into –

- **Economic diplomacy** encompasses Trade, FDI, and Investment, as exemplified by Gujarat's attraction of Japanese investment.
- **Political paradiplomacy** involves asserting cultural identity and promoting Quebec's cultural diplomacy.
- **Cross-border cooperation** entails working together across different borders, such as in EU cross-border regions.
- **Protodiplomacy** refers to situations where regions seek independence, such as Catalonia and Scotland.

- Quebec (Canada) preserves its distinctive international standing by actively promoting French identity worldwide and maintaining cultural agreements with France.
- Catalonia (Spain) describes its international outreach efforts as linked to separatist politics, exemplifying protodiplomacy.
- US states highlight California's role in signing climate agreements. This includes states with trade offices abroad, and NYC also engages in climate diplomacy.

Paradiplomacy in India

- India is a federal nation with substantial central authority, as provided for in Articles 246 and 253, which delegates foreign affairs to the Union. However, paradiplomacy is on the rise.
- Gujarat encompasses the vibrant Gujarat Global Summit and the Japanese industrial corridors.
- Tamil Nadu emphasises investor summits and building relationships with Southeast Asia.
- Kerala is connected to its role in Gulf diaspora diplomacy.
- Punjab maintains close ties with the diaspora in Canada and the UK.
- City diplomacy encompasses partnerships related to smart-city initiatives and sister-city agreements.

Constitutional Position in India

Foreign affairs fall under the Union List (List I), meaning states cannot sign treaties independently. However, they are still able to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), promote trade, organise cultural exchanges, and participate in international forums under the guidance of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). India practices a form of controlled paradiplomacy.

Theoretical Perspectives

- The Realist perspective challenges the concept of state sovereignty and hampers the development of a cohesive foreign policy.
- The Liberal View emphasises the importance of greater cooperation and governance at all levels.
- The Constructivist view highlights diplomacy rooted in identity and the promotion of cultural values.

Advantages of Paradiplomacy

- Regional development
- Attracting investment
- Diaspora engagement
- Cultural diplomacy
- Climate and Urban Governance Solutions

Challenges

- Conflict with the country's foreign policy.
- Risk of secessionism
- Diplomatic confusion
- Lack of coordination

Traditional diplomacy centres on relations between states, highlighting interactions between governments, treaties, and sovereignty.

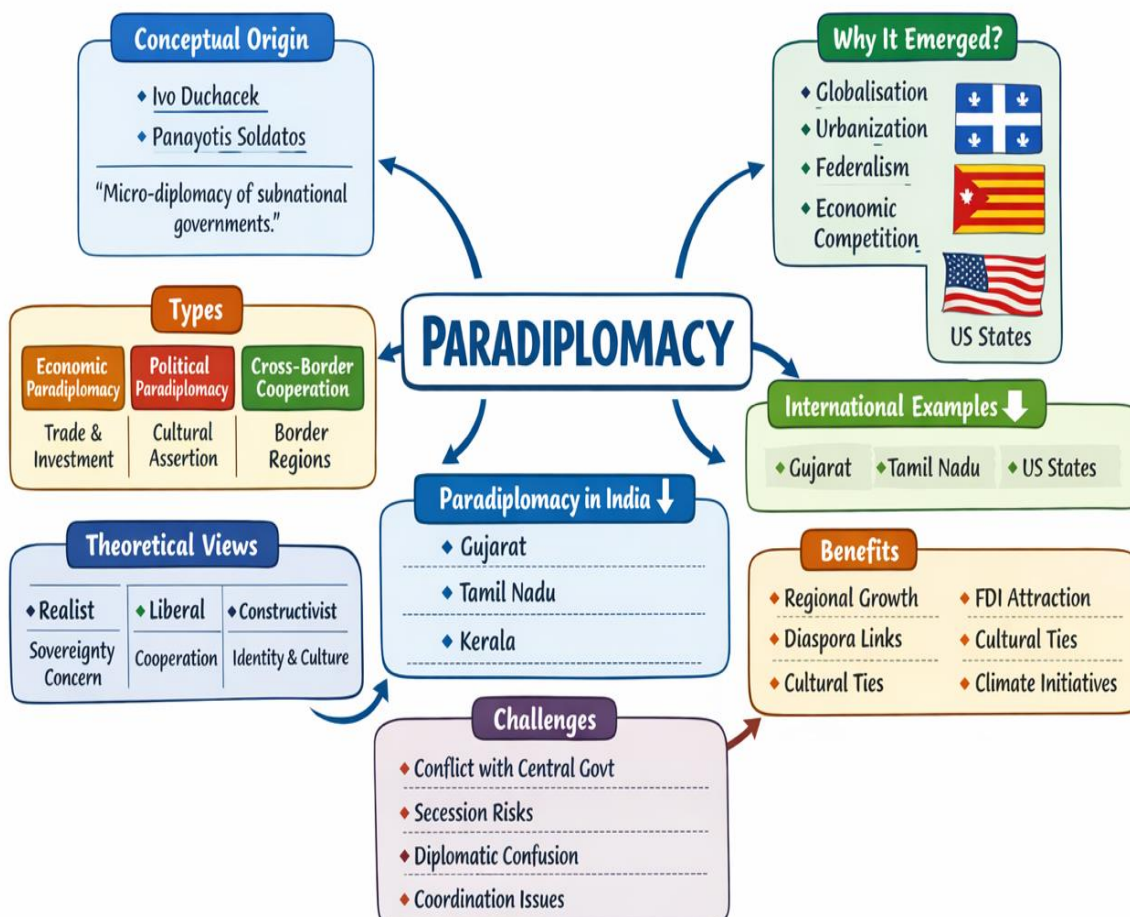
Paradiplomacy involves interactions between states and subnational entities, such as regions or cities. It highlights the role of local governments in activities such as investment and cultural exchange within a multi-level governance framework.

Contemporary Relevance

- Active involvement of municipalities in climate change negotiations.
- G20 Urban Track
- Economic federalism in India
- Trade competition after globalization

In Brief

Paradiplomacy involves the delegation of diplomatic powers from a sovereign state to its subnational entities, emphasising the growing impact of globalisation and multi-level governance.



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