

Name: Dr. Waseem Ahmad

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Supervisor Name: Prof. Anisur Rahman

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Topic: India's Soft Power Diplomacy with Special Reference to the GCC Countries

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Findings

The thesis summarizes that the Diaspora significantly contribute to the development of the host and home nations as well as the fostering of relations and strengthening the soft power in the GCC countries. There will be a clear synergy between India and the GCC countries consolidating their traditional areas of cooperation — energy, trade, and investment — and pursuing the frontier areas, as GCC investment and partnerships will upgrade India's infrastructure and manufacturing facilities, while Indian entrepreneurs will establish manufacturing bases and skills development facilities in the Gulf region. This will need the adoption of an integrated and cohesive approach, backed by institutional support, in order to make connections between the different areas described above, including renewable energy, water conservation, food security, digital technologies, and skill development. In a broad historical context, the pandemic symbolizes a turning point. From the debris of the havoc, it has inflicted on prior relationships and arrangements; it presents opportunities to push the human narrative into new realms that demand new instruments, new activities, and new views. To raise its global status, India has growing strategic and security interests in the region and through introduction of several policies, initial steps have been taken. While deploying its 'soft power' policy in GCC countries, it is imperative for India to adopt a persuasive approach for various diplomatic objectives, viz. a measure which is currently missing. Since the diaspora has been recognized as the most crucial tool in soft power diplomacy, in which India hold an upper hand, contribute to both their own and the GCC countries' economic and cultural development. It would be a wise to undertake the current mutual relationship among the GCC countries into consideration, which this thesis highlights. It has suggested that the formulation of policies of mutual respect and national interest will promote Indian stronghold in the GCC countries for various diplomatic purposes.