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Emerging Dimension of Indo-US Strategic Relation

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Abstract

This paper describes the emerging and strategical relationship between India and United States. In this research paper I have describe the fundamental apprpach to define the political view about these two allies. This paper provides the details of all these important summits and alliances which connect India with U.S. Moreover this paper explains the dominant factor in U.S - India relations. It deals with trade and commerce, defence, nuclear deal, social and political connectivity. This paper further emphasis on the question 'how India is a good friend of United States' It is the purpose of this paper to understand the main issues and challenges which both India and U.S has taken conjointly. And furthermore it puports to examine the emerging development of india-U.S at global level.

Keywords: India; United States, strategic relationship, alliances, issues, challenges, development

Introduction

India-US bilateral relation have developed into a “global Strategic partnership” based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. The emphasis placed by the Government of India on development and good governance has created opportunity to reinvigorate bilateral ties and enhances cooperation under the motto- “Chalein Soath Saath” forward together we go” and “Sanjha Prayas” sab ka vikas” (shae effort, progress for all) adopted during the first two summits of Prime Minister Modi and President Obama in September 2014 and January 2015 respectively. The summit level joint statement issued in June 2016 called the India-US relationship an “Enduring Global partners in the 21st century”

Regularly exchange of high level political visit has provided sustained momentum to bilateral cooperation, while the wide-ranging and ever-expanding dialogue architecture has established a long term frame work for India-US border-based and multi sect oral, convering trade and investment, defence and security, education, science and technology, Cyber security, high technology, civil nuclear energy, space technology and applications, clean energy, environment, agriculture and health. Vibrant people-to-people interaction and support across the political spectrum in both countries nurture our bilateral relationship.

Indian_U.S Strategic connectivity

Regard to the strategic partnership with the US, it is important to note that the strategic dimension of the bilateral relationship has moved from its political strategic attributes to taking on economic strategic ramifications. This transaction is likely to have a challenging manifestation for the new government in India.²

President Barak Obhama because the first US President to be the Chief Guest of the 66th Republic Day Celebrations of India on 26 January 2015. India and the US held their first ever bilateral dialogue on the UN and multilateral issues in the spirit of the “Delhi December of Friendship” that strengthens and expands the two countries, relationship as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda. The conspicuous absence of major announcements a key indications of the slate of US relations with the host country, led political commentators in both countries to highlight the confidence building aspects of the visit.³

The Obama administration has determined to go beyond the civil nuclear deal to make the US-India strategic partnership more productive and durable. The Indo-Centric policy of Obama administration has focused on.

1. Upgrading the Status India as a global power.
2. Expediting the Implementation on US –India nuclear agreement.
3. Expanding the military to military contacts thus will include defence trade and more joint operations, training and building compatibility between the two militaries.
4. Enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation sharing a common commitment to stability in Afghanistan that is important for combating terrorism and enhancing regional stability and prosperity.
5. Sustaining economic relations. Opening up markets expanding bilateral economic engagement including two way trade and investment. Working more cooperation in world trade organization intensifying collaboration on multilateral trade issue.
6. Expanding partnership in education, agriculture and public health.⁴

To analyses the current trends of our strategic partnership with the USA and our expectations for the future it would be useful to look into the origins of this partnership and how it has been projected in recent years in various joint statements at the leadership level. This well provides the yardsticks to assess the status of the partnership in its future.

It was during President Bush's visit to India in January 2004 that former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee issued the "Nest steps in strategic partnership with USA" (NSSP) statement that recalled that in Nov. 2001, he and Bush has committed "our countries to a strategic partnership" in July 2005, the US State department announced the successful completion of the NSSP, and discussion moved to a higher political plane of forging a civil nuclear agreement which, on finalization in Oct,2008, materially changed in Indo-US strategic equation.

Since then, the two countries have been affirming their strategic partnership, and defining its content in bolder terms in joint statements. In November, 2009, during PM Manmohan Singh's US visit, the two countries announced a "global strategic partnership" centered, interlaid, on countering international terrorism.

The joint statement issued in November 2010 during the US President Barak Obama's visit to India spoke of expanding and strengthening the India-US global strategic partnership, and called it indispensable. Obama's affirmation that "the United States looks forward to a reformed UN security council that includes India as a permanent member" was viewed as a major evolution in the US position.

During Manmohan Singh's Washington visit in Sept 2013, Obama and Dr. Singh noted with pride the transformation of US-India relations during the last decade, and affirmed that their partnership was stronger than at any point in their 67-years history.

The rhetoric and the substance of the India-US strategic partnership was expanded during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the USA in September 2014. The joint statement extolled the broad strategic and global partnership between the USA and India, with Prime Minister Modi emplacing "the priority India accords to its partnership with the United States, a principal partner in the realization of India's rise as a responsible influential world power" President Obama recognized that "India's rise as a

friend and partner is in the United States "interest" They endorsed the first, "vision statement for the strategic partnership" as a guide to strengthen and deepen cooperation in every sector over the next ten years.

In addition, the two leaders affirmed their long-term vision for a resilient and ambitious partnership through the first vision statement mentioned intense consultations, joint exercises, and shared technology to advance international security. It was stated that the two will support and open and inclusive rules based global order, in which India assumes greater multilateral responsibility, including in a reformed United National security council.

The commitment to make "the US-India partnership a defining counters terrorism relationship for the 21st century"

The bold, strand alone US-India joint strategic vision for the Asia pacific and Indian Ocean region stated that a closer partnership between the United States and India was indispensable to promoting peace, prosperity and stability in these regions.⁵

Apart from boosting economic relations, there have been certain distinct advances in the defence relations of India and the US. The US has welcomed the Modi's government's initiative to carry out reforms in defence procurement and allow the private sector to have a larger share in design and production of defence equipments. A major achievement of the Modi government in the defence area has been the incorporation of Co-production of weapons in India, along with transfer of technology through the defence trade and technology initiative (DTI) in the renewed Indo-US ten-years defence Frame work agreement it signals India's attempt, at diversifying its sources of arms production and procurement as well as the coming of age of Indo-US defence relations.

Despite advances in areas like co-production of defence items, differences between US and India remain, For instance, there was no advancement on the issue of climate change, same Modi articulations that India was willing to "cooperate closely" with American to conclude a global climate agreement by the end of 2015 in Paris.⁶

After Prime Minister Modi's ground breaking visit to the US, the speed with which new initiatives were begun and old ones revived is remarkable. To mention just a few. The two countries signed an implementing agreement between the National Aeronautics and space Administration (ISRO) to conduct a joint NASA-ISRO synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission (Sept 30, 2015), the Indian Renewable energy development agency ltd and the export-Import Bank of the US signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that would make available up to \$ 1 billion in financing expanded cooperation and enhance US private sector investment in India's clean energy projects, an India-US political Military dialogue was convened to exchange perspective an bilateral strategic and regional issues, a programme of bilateral counter improvised explosive device (C-IED) was lunched, a MOU was signed between the US-department of treasury and the Indian Ministry of Finance to enhance cooperation to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and money more. Therefore, India US strategic relations have rarely been more promising, and it is a mutual interest of both countries to develop strategic ties, both countries realize this and are working to build on a rich foundation.⁷

US-India strategic partnership has thrived since both India

and US have understood the need for transformation of their problematic past relationship. The new governments' recognition that, despite the difference that persist, the US is a worthy partner to address various challenges faced by India and help India's rise had stimulated and reinvigorated the relationship. Discussing thornier issues, Prime-Minister maintained that India supports trade facilitation at the WTO, but expects its concerns on food security to be addressed. He pushed for easier access to the US market for Indian service companies, and promised a new Indian approach to resolving headless in the way of the civil nuclear agreement, banking on his ability to deliver, America responded positively.

The new government's astuteness will lie in how forthcoming it will be in taking mutually beneficial agenda forward. Economic agendas will have to be seen a part of strategic ones and vice versa. The Indian government led by PM Modi has shown a very pragmatic and result oriented approach to its relationship with the US. Any sign of succumbing or yielding to pressure from the US has been ducked by India. Modi's visit to US, following the UNGA address, was fitting to the extent that after addressing a gathering of world leaders, he moved on to arguably the world's most important country, the US the warm reception extended by US President (Administration) and the 'rock star' reception by the Indian American community in the US left no doubt that the visit was successful.

The leaders reaffirmed their resolve to continue working together as well as with the wider International community to augment the capacity of the United Nations to more effectively address the global development and security challenges. The leaders also affirmed their support for a reformed UN security council with India as a permanent member.

Building on their respective bilateral engagements with Africa, such as the US-Africa leaders, summit and India-Africa forum summit, the leader reflected that the United States and India share a common interest in working with partners in Africa to promote property and security across the continent. The leader welcomed trilateral cooperation with Africa partners, including in areas such as agriculture, health, energy, women's empowerment and sanitation under the statement of guiding principles on triangular cooperation for global development. They looked forward to opportunities to deepen US-India global development cooperation in Africa, as well as in Asia and beyond.⁹

With both the US and India looking to boost economic growth and generate jobs, the commitment to expedite Regulatory process and enhance ties in critical industries such as agriculture, science and technology, defense, and energy is a positive development. Modi has continued to Liberalize FDI policies in a bid to attract investment in these critical sectors and this trip is expected to further increase momentum to that end. Trump is also looking to generate jobs in the US and closer ties with India, particularly in the energy and defense sector, will help achieve that goal.

Lockheed Martin's recent agreement with Tata for F-16 manufacturing in India, space jet's \$ 22 Billion order for Boeing planes and a commitment to work together on "advanced defense equipment and technology" means that there will be substantial opportunities for progress in the defense and civil aviation sectors

Energy the another area where significant progress is expected in the coming months, both countries agreed to move forward on several initiatives, including US gas export to India, sharing of clean Coal technology, and an increased focus on innovative energy solutions on "efficient fossil fuel technologies smart grids, and energy storage"

Prime Ministers Modi's Invitations to President Trump Vice President Mike Prince, member of the US Cabinet and Ivanka Trump to visit India are expected that US -India ties will continue to strengthen in the coming months, and foresee future high level trips to India strategic cooperation between the two government will continue to have a positive impact on the economic and business ties as well, bolstering business opportunities in the short and medium term.¹⁰

At international level of politics, wherever global and domestic milieu change the foreign policy of a state and its relations with other state are bound to change. The significant change in global relations creates new opportunities for every country. To get its security objectives It is because, security is always considered as main objectives of foreign policy by the country. As a result, security objectives of a country in the cold War era may not resemble in post-cold War era, because of the changed international environment, it faces new challenges into change situations at bilateral, regional and global levels.

Dominant Factors in Indo-US Relations

India and United States of America started to cooperate on a number of issues due to favorable environment. Some of the incidents and events which worked as positive factors to enhance their bilateral ties are I) China Factor, II) Containment of terrorism III) cooperation in nuclear energy IV) maintain security and (V) trade in the Indian Ocean.¹¹

This United States of America is concerned particularly about China's challenge to its world leadership and increasing competition in Asia Pacific region. Which India is concerned regarding their unresolved border dispute with China and latter strategic relations with Pakistan there are a number of people in India and USA, which consider China as a "Threat" to their interest¹² therefore, in this ere both countries agreed to engage with each other to safeguard their strategic, economic and political interest against rising China. India and the United States are committed to oppose the Sino-centric Asia. Thus, the dramatic rise of China is the main threat to India and US on the regional and global level. In this changed scenario the rise of China is main issue for both the nations, to maintain their security and economy.

Terrorism has emerged as major security challenge for the entire world in general and India in particular. Both India as well as United States has condemned terrorism in all forms through public forums and joint statements. The cooperation's that began with the "War against terror" has only grown, particularly with new and divergent modes of threat facing both the countries.¹³ In fact, counter terrorism cooperation has been one of the hallmarks of bilateral relations.

India engaged on counter terrorism cooperation with United States to resolve the problem to prevent the incidents of terrorism in future. It is likely that terrorism in future may have four main components weapons of mass

destruction, maintain threats, cyber-crime and terrorism affecting energy security. These categories of terrorism can be tackled only with the cooperation of both regional and global player collectively India and United States may be appropriate actors in this manner.

Nuclear Issue: - the relationship between America and India were rancorous due to their different perceptions on nuclear issues and non-proliferation.¹⁴ But the relation between America and India got improved due to changed global scenario both the countries tried to resolve the nuclear liability issues on its own part due to improved nuclear cooperation. The US-India civil nuclear deal is not only about cooperation between America and India in the field of nuclear energy but it is more than that.¹⁵ The deal has the potential to advance energy security, protect environment, boost economic and technological development, strengthen non-proliferation regime and international security and to create balance of power in Asia region. The deal is a win-win situation for the two countries and provided huge benefits to both countries.¹⁶

Maritime security arrangements in the India Ocean region (IOR) are very important issues for regional and extra regional player traditional and non-traditional security challenges have increased at sea area and they upset economic, environmental, human, food, energy and national security. As regional power and rising global power, India desire to achieve its maritime security goal with cooperation spirit of shared destiny. India's rising naval capacity also manifests its strong commitment to maritime security arrangement. India is doing efforts to accomplish this task with the cooperation of global power especially the USA.¹⁷ India economic prosperity is also global trade in commodities and goods transport through the sea India and US have already focused on significant cooperation towards the Asia and global maintain commons. A secure peaceful South Asia is in Indo-US strategic interest as any insecurity in this region may have spillover effects in contiguous regions, the America is also confident that India is not likely to go against its interests due to their common security goals. As a result, both America and India may work towards formation of a bilateral cooperation for ensuring peace and property in the India Ocean region (IOR)

Trade-Factor:- America and India cannot be examined without the inclusion of the economic interests. There are tremendous possibilities in America India trade relations trade and economic relations provide the ground for evolving strategic cooperation between the two countries. Trade relations present much needed sound foundation for increase in strategic relationship. The economic relations between America and India in the areas of trade and investment have been the most important factors in bringing the two countries closer. America needs big market and India needs capital and technology to fulfill its goals. By working together, both the countries can facilitate each other's continued economic success.¹⁸

The American administration has determined to go beyond the civil nuclear deal to make the India United States strategic partnership more productive and durable. The Indo-Centric policy of American administration had focused on.

1. Upgrading the Status of India as a global power.
2. Expediting the implementation on US-India nuclear agreement.

3. Expanding the military to military contacts, this will include defense trade and more joint operations, trading and building compatibility between the two militaries.
4. Enhancing counter terrorism cooperation sharing a common commitment to stability in Afghanistan that important for combating terrorism and enhancing regional stability and prosperity.
5. Sustaining economic relations, opening up markets expanding bilateral economic engagement including two way trade and investment working more cooperatively in world trade organization. Intensifying collaboration on multilateral trade issue.
6. Expanding partnership in education agriculture and public health.¹⁹

End use monitoring agreement cleared the way for supply of US nuclear and military technology to India on a large scale level. This agreement allowed the US to monitor the end use of the arms and sensitive technologies sold to India and ensured that they were not diverted to other countries. The two governments also agreed to establish an "India-US strategic dialogue" that would meet annually and focus on five main pillars of bilateral relations likely strategic cooperation, energy and climate change, education and development, economic, trade and agriculture, science and technology, health and innovation. Both governments agreed on the formation of a sound structure of joint working groups, which would address "a wide range of bilateral, global and regional issues of shared interest and common concern, continuing programmes currently under implementation and taking mutually beneficial initiatives that complement Indian and American development, security and economic interests"²⁰ The structure of different working groups that would deal with five main areas as:

1. Strategic cooperation working groups will address counter terrorism, defense cooperation carrying forward the civil nuclear agreement and high technology trade.
2. Energy and Climate change working groups will continue the energy dialogue and also initiate discussion on climate change.
3. Education and development working groups will deepen partnership in education and carry out discussion on women's empowerment.
4. Economic trade and agriculture working groups will strengthen discussions on business, trade and agricultural cooperation.
5. Science and technology, health and innovation working groups will explore new areas for cooperation in leading technologies and in addressing global health challenges.²¹

India and the United States of America are seen evolving their strategic orientations around the rising significance of the Indo-Pacific region. While India is seen as the resident custodian of security in the Indian Oceans region, the USA'S role as the principal security guarantor of the pacific oceans is beyond doubt. Which United States of America and India have developed convergences across a wide spectrum of issues, no strategic partnership can be complete without sustaining a robust defense partnership. The defense sector has been given topmost priority,

whether it is in the realm of military exercises or defense trade. The increasing volume and quality of defense trade is seen in the negotiations towards defense co development and co-production, including aircraft carrier design and construction, taking the relationship to new lights. India's elevation as a major defense partner of the USA will most likely continue in the new Trump administration section 1292, of the national defense authorization act if 2017 (NDAA 2017) of the US stresses enhancing defense and security cooperation with India. During his senate confirmation hearing earlier, US secretary of Defense, James Mattis, commenced the role of the defense trade and technology initiative (DTTI) a brainchild of his predecessor Ashton carter, towards bringing the two countries closer. He also contended that India's Act east capital policy was instrumental in contributing security in the Asia-Pacific. The strategic community in India views that Indo-Pacific construct as a natural extension of India's foreign policy for protection of national interest of South East Asia under the Act East policy, while their counterpart in the USA see the region as a natural corollary of Washington's rebalancing strategy towards the Asia-Pacific- to the extent that money prefer to refer to the Indo-Pacific as Indo-Asia Pacific. India's strategic congruence with the USA with this aspect has been emphasized and reiterated often by Admiral Harry Harris, the commander of the US pacific command.

India's defense purchases from the USA have the touched US \$15 billion. The new priority items in India US defense trade include India's likely cooperation with the USA in its further vertical lift (FVL) Aircraft programme. The two countries are also considering the futuristic infantry combat vehicle (FICV) project suggested to be a trilateral Endeavour, which includes Isreal of the important deals already inked between India and the United States, there is the US \$ 3.1 billion deal for 22 Apache attack and 15 Chinook heavy lift helicopters and two (Mobile Generators and next-Gen protective ensemble worth US \$ 2 million) out of the four pathfinder projects.

Of the money military exercises that the India and United State hold together, "yudh abiyas" and the Malabar Exercises of the Flagship ones, intended to increase interoperability between the forces of the two countries, and also with friendly countries like Japan in the case of Malabar Exercise. The Malabar Exercises has unquestionably emerged as a significant template for forging cooperation among stakeholders in the entire region spanning the India Ocean to the Western Pacific.

Conclusion

The emerging India-US cooperation in the maritime sector corresponds well with India's vision for the Indian Ocean region, Aptly referred to a security and growth for all in the region (Sagar). India's well qualified concerns of giving too much control to the USA in the name of interoperability inhibits consequences on agreements like the Communications Compatibility and Security Arrangements (COMCASA), early called Communication interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA). Nevertheless, the two countries have been guided by a larger strategic vision to maintain and sustain a secreted and stable Indo-Pacific, and such Tactical differences should be seen as the new normal of a maturing partnership

between the two democracies.

It is quite Apparent that India's growing power and influence general and its deepening defense and security cooperation with the USA-particularly the new emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region-has not gon down well with the Chinese government. An outright military alliance between India and the United States of America is not in offing, given India's own desire to maintain strategic autonomy. However, there is no doubt that both countries desire the strategic partnership to extent greater habits of cooperation and coordination in areas of convergent interest.

There have been some concerns in India accruing from the uncertainty as to how to Trump administration reasserts American's trade and commerce policies while new Delhi has been busy trying to entice US companies to invest and increase business in India on 23 March 2017, speaking in the Rajya Sabha, India's External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj, sought to allay fears by saying that the Trump administration had not yet implemented a policy that would affect Indian skilled workers in the United States, and the Indian government was making efforts, through the administration and members of the US congress to dissuade the USA from doing so. Efforts have been made by the Indian government to impress upon the United States government the fact that the relationship between Indian IT companies and the United States America was mutually in the USA and created jobs there, US companies have been doing substantial business in India. According to sources a sizeable number of Americans companies in Bangalore and Hyderabad are engaged in R&D data mining, analytics, Genone, Sequencing Incubators etc. in addition companies supply a large number items like sensors, Drones, satellites, equipment fitted with artificial intelligence, among other things to India as part of the country's digitalization programme.

Counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries has been on the upswing since the 28/11 attacks, and the India US home land security dialogue reflects the seriousness of this development. It spans across the different agencies involving in fighting terrorist activities. India's national security advisor Ajit Doval's recent visit to the USA and his meeting with the national security team of the Trump Administration was an important step towards taking forward the counter terrorism cooperation. This including other high level visits, such as the one made by India's Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar, could be seen as spade work towards the two administrations getting to know each other before bilateral summit meetings.²²

The new dialogue format between the two countries in likely to be "2 by 2 " which similar to India-Japan 2+2 dialogue formats between foreign and defense secretaries of the two countries. The purpose of the dialogue was to put defense and security issue at the forefront and centre of the relationship between India and US. In a statement to the media about US president Donald Trump's phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of India's Independence Day, the white House hinted at the new format "the leaders resolved to enhance peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region by establishing a new two by two ministerial dialogue that will elevate their strategic consultations.

On June 26 Prime Minister Narender Modi visited US and met Donal Trump. On 8 Nov-2017, US have announced a grant of nearly USA 500,000 for organization which can

come up with ideas and projects to promote religious freedom in India.²³

The President Thanked the Prime Minister for his substantive contribution to and active participation in 2016 nuclear security summit in Washington DC and welcomed his offer to host a summit on countering weapons of mass destruction terrorism in 2018. The United States and India will work together to combat the threat of terrorists accessing and using chemical, biological, nuclear and radio logical materials.

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