

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

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Abstract

The present study is to a certain extent important because of the Cold War era, Indo-US relationship has been marked by so many ups and downs. Considerably, there has been continuous enhancement in Indo-US relations in the post-Cold War era. Both the countries complete a well-built pledge to transform bilateral ties into strategic partnership during this era, mainly after 9/11. It is observed to smooth the progress of that India and the US focused on strategic, security issues, defense, maritime, energy, space, counter terrorism, trade, science and technology etc. The renovation in Indo-US strategic relationship has a vast impact on China's security and these make corrections will have an effect on India-US-China trilateral strategic relationships in support of India. Importantly, the study has been focused on Indo-US bilateral relationship mainly in the 21st century vis-a-vis India's security concerns at regional and global level. Thus, the study has been taking into account of the shifting global order, which is rapidly changing in the light of globalization, global terror pain in the neck and worldwide non-conventional security threats. It is also likely that let-down on the part of India to prevent delay or abandonment of the "123 civil nuclear cooperation agreement" has been bring substantial restrained consequences for the strategic relationship with the United States. Both the countries also decided to determine to construct nearer and qualitatively strategic ties in the 21st century. The area of convergences and divergences stuck between the two countries has been solidifying the growing model of mutual relationships. Consequently, the relevance of strategic relations makes the reading important at present time. Keeping in observation the over mentioned current development in Indo-US relations, the strategic ties process has been build a realistic impact in Indo-Pacific region and the beyond region; for that reason this subject matter has been undertaken for the research.

Keywords: Strategic Relations, India, U.S.

Backdrop

India and the United States relationship have marked a range of ups and downs. In the Cold war period bilateral relationship showed mistrust and hostility, from time to time also welcoming accommodations. The impact of Cold War rivalry between the two blocks had a vast impact on Indo-US relationship. During the Second World War, the US had to face tremendous security challenges from Japan. The US stressed Britain to sort-out India's independence issue as early as possible. Accordingly, the then US President Churchill approached India for the reason that US perceived India's importance to counter Japan influence in Asia. Because of this, Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi supported US-UK axis during the Second World War situation. But

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Balwinder Singh

this conditional relationship between India and the US was not unrelenting for long moment in time. With the end of Second World War, the US did not concern about India's security and economic concerns.

Yet, both India and the US are the same democratic profile, India is the largest democracy and the US is the oldest democracy in the world. Nevertheless, it is not necessary that the only democracy had proved to get-better relationship among two nations. India and the US have had a slow-moving relationship ever since India's Independence. For the duration of the Cold War period, the relation between the two countries has witnessed several ups and downs. But in fact, there were more downs than ups. Because, Americans had an indistinguishable attraction with India's political culture and on the other hand, Indian potential establishment had little practical experience of American political culture. As well as, America did not support India's stance of Non-Alignment. It is far and wide well thought-out that the US intellectuals, academicians and Washington based policy makers were not positive towards India's adherence with Non-Alignment Movement. Moreover, American policy-makers openly criticized India's soft stand towards socialism. India did not hold-up America's containment strategy and therefore, Washington adopted anti-India line on Kashmir and other issues. In this segment, there was a short period when Washington was supported India during Indo-Sino war in 1962 due to growing Chinese military aggression on India. At that time, the Kennedy administration provided limited aid to India. It was because that, the Kennedy Administration measured India as an instrument to contain communism.

Due to the unfriendly relations between Nixon and Indira, Indo-US partnership could not be hale and hearty. As a result, the Nixon administration had adopted a pro-Pakistani approach and openly supported Pakistan in Indo-Pak war in 1971. The Johnson administration adopted an anti-Indian stance on the topic of nuclear non-proliferation and forced a stoppage to put-up for sale weapons to India in 1979. The Regan administration also sidelined India's security concerns in South Asia and marked Pakistan as a front-line state to contain communism in this region. Despite being one of the founding member of the Non-alignment Movement, India wanted to develop balanced relationship with both super powers throughout the Cold War period. But this was not endorsed by the United States policy-makers. The United States closeness with Pakistan was the main hindrance of Indo-US friendly bilateral relations. The strained relationship was primarily due to their conflicting perspectives and divergent approach towards various subjects, such as the United States standpoint towards Communism, greater than ever India-Soviet-Union strategic relationship as well as the US support to Pakistan in Indo-Pak wars during the Cold War. During the Cold War period US's policy of intervention; the US support to Pakistan on Kashmir issue; India-Soviet Union treaty of friendship (1971) had negatively affected Indo-US relationship. Moreover, the US-Pakistan-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had further affected Indo-US bilateral relations. After 1974 Pokhran-I nuclear test, the US imposed sanctions against India and India stand on NPT had further worsened the relations with the US.

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

The United States interference in South Asian strategic environment and Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 and United States military aid to Pakistan had changed the regional security. The United States stand on Pakistan sponsored terrorism was posed a security threats for South Asia in general and India in particular. During this period, the US ignored India's view on Kashmir issue and neglected infiltration policy of Pakistan in Indian administered Kashmir. So, Indo-US bilateral relations remained resentful during much the Cold War phase.

Indo-US Relations: Policy Paradigm

With the crumbling of USSR, the US shifted its policy towards India completely. Due to India's nuclear explosion in 1998, the US had forced many sanctions against India. After this, Indo-US strategic relations have deepened after the Clinton visits to New Delhi in 2000. The US had turned-down the economic sanction against India in 2001. India had started slow defense cooperation with US. We can articulate that the in the early hours of 21st century have demonstrated an 'opening era' of Indo-US amiable relationship.

With the end of bi-polar global order, Indo-US relationship has improved continuously. Disintegration of USSR provided chance to both India and the US to be closer with each other. Due to changed strategic reasons, the US acknowledged India as a more reliable and profitable partner than Pakistan. It is examined that there are two main reasons due to the US wants to strengthening relationship with India. Firstly, the US wants to counter China's rise as a super-power at regional and global level. Secondly, the US wants to deteriorate India-Russia traditional strategic partnership. Due to strategic ramification, Indo-US relations have touched new heights in 21st century. USA is playing balancing acts in South Asia to act in response to China. The US wants to build stronger ties with India to combat Pakistan-China coalition. Therefore, the USA provides defense technology and economic hold-up to India. The US is also trying to modernize India's defense equipment. The US also wants to counter China's aggressiveness in South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, the US is pressurizing China to implement UNCLOS guidelines vis-à-vis to maritime security.

India and the US are containing China's increasing dominant on many international form such as East Asia Summit, G-20 and ASEAN. Indo-US strategic relations have broader scope not only bilateral level but also at regional and global platform. Both the countries could work together for calm-down and stability in Asia-pacific region. In this regard, India has become paramount partner of US rebalance policy for Asia-pacific region. Due to democratic profile, both countries could address democratic reforms in UNSC, IMF and WTO. Besides this both the nations could address such global problem like refugee crisis, threats of terror and threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction etc. They could affirm the maritime security vis-à-vis Indian Ocean and South China Sea. India and the US strategic partnership could make available

Balwinder Singh

‘security umbrella’ to all South Asian and East Asian countries, whose concerns from China’s emerging aggressiveness.

Both the countries could take essential steps to control nuclear arsenal to non-state actors and could impose strong sanctions against those countries, which are sponsoring terrorism and other non-conventional activities. Due to global security both the countries could make unanimously against such rivals countries like North Korea, Pakistan, which are threatening world peace and stability. Both the countries can contribute in United Nations Peace Mission towards working in disturbed zone. Both the countries could maintain peace and development in disturbed Afghanistan. There is not denying the reality that Indo-US strategic partnership has regional and global implications.

Indo-US Relations in New World Order

With the closing stages of Cold War in 1990, the bipolar military alliance based system was collapsed. After the disbanding of the Soviet Union, India began to revise its foreign policy in accordance to new world order and took positive initiative to develop close relations with the US. During the Cold War, Pakistan was the centre-point of the American South Asia policy. In the post-Cold War phase, due to change international environment, India has much more important for the US in South Asia. On the other hand, the US supported India’s efforts to privatize economy in this changed environment. In this changing scenario, the adoption of liberalization, privatization and globalization by India create a new environment in their relationship to take off on a more robust note. This step was proved a remarkable progress in Indian economy extension and India’s opening-up of the economy attracted the Americans and whole western world. So, due to India’s economic go-up, its coming-out as a big marketplace as well as a source of capital, United States takes in India’s potentiality.

The dissolution of Soviet Union brought with reference to scores of changes in the global politics. It opened the new doors of collaboration between India and the US. Consequently, there was a move in the United States policy towards India. But, things changed tremendously after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and on the other hand, when Bill Clinton assumed office. Consequently, Pakistan lost its importance in the new political situation. The Soviet Union and Communism were no longer a threat to the America and its allies. So, Pakistan was wiped-out from the United States of America’s strategic thinking, instead India came-up.

Besides this, Indo-US defense cooperation had touched new heights following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. India was adopted liberalize policy in 1991 to provoke the US for more investment in Indian defense modernization programme. In the post-Cold War, India and the US started balanced steps-forward in defense sphere too. In this changed uni-polar international system, India needs a super-power for strategic and economic support. Accordingly, India was constrained to build-up strategic relationship with the US. Therefore, India shifted its responsiveness towards

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

Russia and started tilt towards the US. It is relying actuality that India and the US relationship have undergoing a strategic move in uni-polar global architecture. Due to changing international environment, the US adopted a refined foreign policy towards South Asia. The US adopted equally-balance policy towards India and Pakistan. It was showed American shifting stand on Kashmir. In this changed scenario, the US recognized Kashmir as a bilateral problem between India and the Pakistan and started abstained from the dialogue on Kashmir issue. India-China strained relations and the US-China strained relations were another *raison d'être* of mounting Indo-US strategic partnership.

The US government signed 'Kicklighter Proposals' with India, which was the started military to military level exercises. Indian and American army and air force were collaborated a first joint training exercise named 'Teak Iroquois' in February 1992. In this sequence, both India and the US started joint military exercise named 'Malabar' in 1992 to expanse maritime cooperation in international water. Due to contrast strategic location and competitive immediate neighborhood environment, India always had a big importer of arsenal. The US perceived India's potential as a big market for selling of arsenal that is why; Indo-US defense collaboration had started. During the Gulf War, India praised United States efforts to establish peace in Middle East and provided fuel facility to American fighter-jets. India's collaboration with the US in the area of defense started in January 1995, when the 'Agreed Minute on Defense Relations' was signed by the two countries. It was proposed to deepen defense ties. India sidelined American pressure on CTBT in 1996, which was an irritant in the Indo-US relations.

In 1998, Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government conducted nuclear tests in 1998. After the nuclear tests, India declared itself a nuclear weapons state. The United States and other Western countries strongly opposed India's nuclear tests and Clinton administration imposed economic sanctions against India. However, in 1999 during Kargil War, the Clinton administration criticized Pakistan infiltration and pressurized on Pakistan to back-out from Indian administered Kashmir. There was a time when Islamabad was given utmost importance in Washington. It was because of the strategic location of Pakistan and the global strategic scenario. However, once the Cold War was over, the American priorities changed drastically. The Singh-Talbot talks were completed with its desired goals.

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the New Century

The United States President Bill Clinton's stopover to India in 2000 proved a new opening for the two countries. Clinton's visit to India set a new strategic orientation. Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee and US President Clinton signed 'Indo-US Relations: A Vision for the 21st Century'. It boosted the bilateral ties between the two countries. September 11 was a defining time for the Washington and its aftershock are being felt even today. Washington's vital, enduring and growing interest in Indo-pacific

Balwinder Singh

transformed relationship between India and the US and terrorism had emerged a big area of convergence between the two nations.

In the post-Cold War era, the Indo-US relations can be explained in two phases, i.e., before and after September 11, 2001. Thus, after the 9/11 terrorist attack upon World Trade Centre [WTC] India has become a vital strategic cohort in the global battle against terror. Due to terrorist attack on World Trade Centre (WTC) in 2001, the US introduced a new policy regarding international terrorism. American 'War on Terror' policy was launched to destroy the safe-heavens of terrorists. India has been suffered long-standing problem of Pakistan-state sponsored terrorism and that is why, India quickly supported American 'War on Terror' plan. Due to the Pakistan's strategic potential and US-Pakistan traditional strategic relations, the US has not so far designated Pakistan as a 'Terrorist Country'. India raised its concerns towards the American ambiguous policy towards Pakistan based terror. India perceives that American terror policy is in accordance to Washington national security concerns. Due to American self-centric foreign policy national interests, India noticed that the US has adopted a very soft policy towards Pakistan sponsored terrorism. India has always criticized the American double standard strategy towards state sponsored terrorism.

In 2001, the US President Bush give-up the sanctions in opposition to India. Because, these sanctions were not supported the national security interests of Washington. In this segment, it was high time to patch-up disputes and extend bilateral relationship due to changed global scenario. During this period, both nations realized the need of strategic cooperation for security reasons. An important, initiative has been taken during India's Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to Washington in November 2001 and the two countries agreed to support on an extensive variety of issues like-counter terrorism, regional security, space and scientific partnership and showed interest to broadened economic ties.

But, from the last part of the 20th century to the first decade of the 21st century have witnessed a big change in Indo-US relations. However, both nations did not translate their relationship into lasting good relations. Because, they had divergent views on many issues such as high technology transfer, American continuing support to state-sponsored terrorism, World Trade Organization related issues, Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT), global disarmament programme, global warming and trade issues. In these above issues, the broader striking divergence between Washington and New Delhi is the US yet again comes close towards Pakistan. The Washington policy-makers have convincing information with reference to the Pakistan Army and ISI back-up Haqqani network in opposition to the American armed forces in Afghanistan. But they go on with to support Pakistan in the look-forward of achieving their strategic object in West and Central Asia.

Indo-US strategic ties imply multi-dimensional, broader, long-term and dynamic relationship. These relationships between the two countries can be defined in two ways; firstly, entail bilateral defense cooperation and secondly, implies multilateral global security cooperation. Bilateral cooperation is based on the issues like; defense-

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

modernization, arsenal-trade, information sharing, joint military exercises and technology-transfer. The global security cooperation is based on the issues like; maritime security, counter terrorism cooperation, cyber security, disaster management, space cooperation, energy security, and climate change. Indo-US global defense cooperation is also based on to combat ISIS in West Asia, control over non-state actors and to limit the intimidation of nuclear proliferation.

Indo-US defense trade was started after signed Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) in 2002. The DTTI intended to simplifying technology transfer policies and exploring possibilities of co-development and co-production of defense arsenals. India and United States have nearly parallel security challenges in the 21st century. The efforts in this way incorporated bilateral collaboration in civilian nuclear energy and military to military cooperation. India and the US had established a bilateral dialogue mechanism in the field of Defense Joint Working Group (DJWG), Defense Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), Senior Technology Security Group (STSG), Joint Technical Group (JTG) and Military Cooperation Group (MCG). The Defense Policy Group worked as top institutional channel of communication means for defense partnership between the two nations.

In January 2004, the two countries signed the 'Next Steps in Strategic Partnership' (NSSP), which was a dazzling commencement in strategic collaboration. It was the beginning of strategic partnership between the two nations. The United States had given special leverage to India in its security planning towards the South Asia region. Indo-US partnership has been essential for maintaining strategic balance in Indo-Asia-Pacific region. India and the United States are more open to restrain China and undertaking shore-up to a 'special' and 'global' strategic partnership that would be a strength for maintain quiet, solidity and prosperity in Indo-Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

India and the United States opened a new episode in their mutual ties with the signing of 'New Framework for the Indo-US Defense Relationship', in July 2005 for ten years. It was proved a milestone to deepen defense ties. The 'New Framework intended for Defense Relationship' was renewed for 10 years in June 2015. It enclosed the entire range of defense cooperation. This defense agreement focused on joint-exercises, defense-trade and cooperation and co-operation in naval security and counter-piracy collaborations. In October 2005, a historical accord for shore-up in field of science and technology was marked between the two countries. In July 2007, India and the US reached on a distinguished milestone in their strategic partnership by completing negotiations for civil nuclear cooperation which is known as "123 Agreement". This civil nuclear agreement was implemented during Indian Prime Minister Modi visit to Washington in 2014. Due to civil nuclear agreement between the two countries, bilateral strategic relations have touched a new height. Relations between India and the United States crossed a key signpost as both signed the accord on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This is called an India's strategic shift towards the US for energy purposes.

Balwinder Singh

After 26/11 incident in Mumbai, India and the US cooperatively wished-for to come to blows against worldwide Islamic terrorism. Both the countries had signed anti-terrorism initiative in 2010. The then US President Obama visited India in 2010 and declared India as an “equal partner” against global terrorism. Energy cooperation is a different vital area of Indo-US strategic ties. India and the US introduced ‘US-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy’, which was signed in November 2009. It will help to reinforce cooperation on energy security, which can be most important challenge of the 21st century. Both countries established Indo-US Grand Challenge, Joint Clean Energy Research & Development Centre (JCERDC) in November 2010, to promote collaboration in energy sphere.

To retain India’s strategic domain in Asia-pacific region and enlarge it in keeping with its growing global economic and military clout. Indo-US strategic dialogue was introduced in 2009 to discussed common concerns and foster strategic cooperation in diverse areas. The first Indo-US strategic dialogue planned in June 2010 in Washington. The strategic dialogue is the highest-level regularly scheduled bilateral exchange linking the two countries. Since 2010, the strategic dialogue focused on defense cooperation, energy security, climate change, education, trade, agriculture, space, health, technology transfer and innovation. This dialogue proved flourishing to improve Indo-US relations. In June 2011, second strategic dialogue held in New Delhi, was an important meeting in the development of the Indo-US strategic partnership.

The dialogue focused on disarmament, energy security, climate change, counter-terrorism cooperation, aviation, space, women empowerment, scientific cooperation and clean energy etc. The third Indo-US strategic dialogue took place in June 2012 in Washington. The dialogue reflected on the noteworthy development and growth of the bilateral relations from the time when the inaugural strategic dialogue in 2010. India and the US have shared a vision for peace, stability and prosperity for Asia-pacific region. The United States welcomed the growing India’s engagement in Asia-Pacific and beyond region. India and the United States discussed the visualization for enhanced regional connectivity through South and Central Asia. The fourth Indo-US strategic dialogue took place in New Delhi in June 2013. The dialogue focused on internal security, sustainable energy and climate change and it extended relationship to a new stage. The fifth Indo-US strategic dialogue was scheduled in New Delhi in August 2014. The dialogue affected due to deadlock on World Trade Organization’s Trade Facilitation Agreement [TFA]. Both the countries affirmed many defense deals such as Apache helicopter and F-16 Falcon etc. These dialogues proved successful to boost Indo-US relations in the new millennium.

The relations between these two great democracies has clearly gained vigor in recent years, buoyant by the convergence of interests between the two countries in different areas such as education, regional security, energy, space and international trade. The United States has also acknowledged India as a key supporter in South Asia region; therefore, Indo-US bilateral relations may be stronger than ever before. Both are on stage significant role to resolve global problems such as terrorism, nuclear

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

proliferation and refugee crisis etc. In the new millennium, the two countries have focused on defense and strategic cooperation.

New Delhi and Washington shares a larger strategic vision that looks at the security and stability in the Asia-pacific region and to prevent any destabilizing role like China's emergence. India is the dominant member of US's 'pivot-Asia' policy, which was introduced by the US in 2011. The USA's 'Pivot-Asia' policy was introduced on containment of China's aggressiveness in Asia-pacific region. The US had started 'Quadrilateral Democratic Alliance' with Japan, India and Australia. This quadrilateral alliance based on to contest China's primacy in Asia-pacific region. The regional cooperation between the two countries is based on countering China's hegemony, peace process in Afghanistan and to control Pakistan nuclear threats. The US wishes to deepening strategic relations with India due to India's geographical proximity in Indian Ocean region. India has been sharing a big-border with China and for that reason the US wants to counter China's strategic interests with the help-out of India. There is emerging new two security alliance in South Asia, which were formed in changing strategic environment of 21st century. One strategic alliance has been led by US with India and Afghanistan and the other strategic alliance has been led by China with Russia and Pakistan. Due to all above development with the opening of 21st century, Indo-US strategic cooperation is intended to mutual-national interests, common concerns and has been taken a number of initiatives at bilateral, regional and international level.

Besides this, Indo-US security relationship also has been multi-dimensional nature, but it manly focused on three areas. These three areas are military to military cooperation, counter-terrorism cooperation and common concern towards maritime security. In this context, India and the US have jointly launched many joint military exercises such as Vajra Prahar, Shatrujeet and Yudh Abhyas in all three services. India always tries to shore-up the United States Navy's [USN] operation to counter global terrorism and maritime piracy. At this time, India and the US have concerns about maritime security in South China Sea and Indian Ocean. Hence, both India and the US criticized China's aggressiveness in South China Sea. Both countries jointly hand with ASEAN countries to counter growing Chinese hegemony in Indo-Pacific region. US President Obama as well as Indian Prime Minister Modi jointly signed 'joint vision for Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean'. The Obama Administration has designated India as a major defense partner.

The US has been keen interest in securing Pakistan's cooperation in its forces withdrawal from Afghanistan. Due to geo-strategic locations of Afghanistan, India also wants to take part in a critical position in Afghanistan in order to establish stability and peace building. Therefore, the US supported India's effort to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. Both, India and the US have actively engaged 'Heart of Asia' conferences for Peace and stability in Afghanistan. The US President Trump hailed India's role in Afghanistan. The new South Asia policy of Trump Administration has stressed on India's larger role in Afghanistan. US President Trump called India to play more active role in Afghanistan to rebuilding and reconstruction.

Balwinder Singh

It is noteworthy to make a note-down of that India is a rising global power. Due to geo-political and geo-strategic reasons; India has been taken full advantage of its startling human capital to boost-up its economy. It would be a more effective strategic collaborator with the US over the next decades. Indo-US collaborations have much potential and possibility to establish global peace. There is not denying the fact that both countries can be proved a global partner in 21st century. Therefore, it is high time to make stronger bilateral relations between the two countries. In this changing global scenario, Indo-US security relationship could do with to be take on with the next generation of leaders of both nations. Both countries have already given priority to elevate the bilateral relationship in the forthcoming years. A re-evaluation of policies from both sides will help-out to put-up the foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship that will reinforce the partnership between the two great nations.

Conclusion

The breakdown of USSR brought good information for Indo-US relationship. India's moved its guiding principle towards the US and happening a sluggish cooperation with the US in diverse field. India tilted towards US caused bilateral defense collaboration. Yet, India performed a nuclear explosion in 1998 and this nuclear detonation have caused the deteriorated the Indo-US relationship. Indo-US strategic cooperation was started after US President Clinton visit to India in 2000. In the 21st century, the US shifting its strategy towards South Asia and started prefer India than Pakistan. The US Started support to India and disregard Pakistan national security interests. Indo-US defense collaboration was improved in 2005, which enclosed military to military operations, counter-terrorism cooperation and nuclear technology collaboration

Yet, due to differing move towards various issues, Indo-US bilateral relations have shared some divergences. There are serious disagreement between India and the US on NPT, CTBT, agriculture subsidy, H-1B visa and intellectual property rights. Indo-US strategic relations have touched new heights when 123 civil nuclear cooperation agreements were signed in 2008. Indo-US strategic dialogue was started in 2009 and covers five common areas of collaboration.

US recognized India as a partner of its rebalance policy towards Asia-pacific region. India is countering China's interests in Asia-pacific region. Since 2011, the US is single largest supplier of US arsenals to India. Due to China's aggressiveness, the US is yielding to modernize India's defense requirement. The US acknowledged India as a defense collaborator and both countries signed a Logistic Support Agreement in 2016. That is why; at present scenario we can say that Indo-US relations have more convergences than divergences. There is not denying the fact that, Indo-US relations have mounting rapidly with a warm viewpoint. It is high time for both countries to strengthening their bilateral rapport in the 21st century.

Indo-US Strategic Relations in the 21st Century

The study has discussed that Indo-US strategic partnership was started in 2004 to foster bilateral relationship. Indo-US 123 civil nuclear agreement has added a new chapter in Indo-US bilateral relations. The US is supporting India's entry as a member of four export control regime. The US wants to deepening relations with India due to three main reasons, firstly to counter China, secondly to sells US's arsenal to India and wants to facilitate by Indian big market and thirdly wants to deteriorate India-Russia traditional relations. That is why, due to strategic cooperation, we can say that Indo-US multi-faceted relations have touched a new height.

The study has revealed that defense cooperation has positively impacted on Indo-US present relations. India is playing as a balancer role in US-China rivalry. India is using the US to weaken China-Pakistan traditional strategic alliance. The US is using India to countering China's emergence. The US is marked India role as a paramount player in peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The study highlights that Indo-US security relations covers diverse areas. Due to maintain balance of power in South Asia, the US has been increasing India's defense capability and potential. Yet, both countries have sharing some differences. These divergences have broader due to India's nuclear proliferation programme. But, these differences could not divert the Indo-US strategic cooperation. For fulfilling the global aspirations, India wants to enlarge its strategic relations with the US. In the second segment of 21st century, the US's South Asia policy marked India as a centre-piece and disregard Pakistan national security interests. Due to terror link with Pakistan, the US overrides Pakistan's national interests and preferred India as a balance player in Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The study examines the views of that India has pivotal partner of US's pivot-Asia/rebalance policy towards Asia-pacific region. Due to China's aggressiveness emergence, India is supporting US's approach towards China's countering. Both the countries raised their voices about maritime security in Indian Ocean and South China Sea. Both, India and the US deeply involved to countering China's image as a super-power. It is considered that both India and the US have sharing common security concerns vis-à-vis China. That is why; both the nations are handling jointly China's aggressive military and economic aggression.

The study depicts that Indo-US strategic collaboration has broader potential and global ramifications. Both the nations, could countering common threats of 21st century. There is broader consensus between the two countries to combat global threats of terrorism. There is not denying the fact that, Indo-US strategic partnership could play a pivotal role not only in Asia-pacific region but also on global platform.

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