



A Study on India USA Relations during and Post Cold-War Era

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Abstract:

If we see for over fifty years, the world's two largest democracies and a major portion of world population have had a very difficult relationship. But that situation has now changed completely.

The potential for deep US- India relations can be seen from the very beginning. The most important reason for that is both the countries have belief in common principles that is the rule of law and the democratic principles. If we see post Indian independence, we observe that the world at that time was divided into two main groups as: The capitalist group headed by USA and the communist group headed by USSR. Initially, India was more inclined towards USSR and shared a very strong strategic relationship with them and somewhat was not that close with USA. There were two main reasons for the friction in relation between USA and India. The first was America's close ties with Pakistan and the second was their non acceptance of NAM. The world scenario altogether changed with the collapse of USSR in nineties and India was forced to look towards alternatives for their strategic and military relations and there was only one obvious choice and that was USA. Post cold war, the relation between USA and India saw new heights two things which improved the relation between India and USA considerably were the opening of the economy by India in nineties and the civil nuclear deal between Dr. Manmohan Singh and George W Bush. No doubt there were ups and downs between the relations but eventually the ties between India and USA improved and in the more recent time remained steady and saw the upward moment.

1. Introduction

India is the one of the world's largest and vibrant democracies in the world. India followed democratic setup immediately after her independence and got its first democratically elected Prime Minister who was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The first democratically elected prime minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru was bestowed with many qualities like dynamism, charm, versatility, knowledge and had a very good overview of world politics and was fully capable of dealing with the international order. The world then had two main groups- the communist group which was controlled by USSR and the capitalist group which was mainly under USA. The mental, perceptual and psychological war between these two blocs was called cold war. Most of the countries during the cold war joined one of the blocs in return for economic and military support. India was not interested in joining any of the blocs because of her previous experience which she got during the conflict with Britain and was only and only in favour of peaceful coexistence of every country. There is no doubt that India was bit closer to USSR bloc but still India had maintained its core principles of Non Alignment and was strongly against war. Indo-US relations had many ups and downs from 1945-1990. The main reason for this sort of relation is that India always stood firmly on its principles despite being economically a weaker country. There were important times during cold war when USA supported India's cause, during India-China war [1962], the US president then had criticized china's aggression against India, though USA had its personnel reasons for supporting India because it was trying to stop the expansion of Chinese communist policy. The other contentious issue between USA and India was that of Pakistan. **The close alliance between USA and Pakistan was always a hurdle for India because Pakistan's policy towards India over the years has passed through a number of phases, which has all along been guided by suspicion, jealousy and hatred towards India¹.** India always believed that with strength comes peace and wanted

to have strong defense against any aggression from the hostile neighbors- China and Pakistan and particularly after the war of 1962 with China and 1971 war with Pakistan, India started on upgradation of its military power. The main step in this direction came when India conducted a nuclear explosion in 1974, the US was furious and with their counterpart Western European Countries imposed strong economic and military sanctions against India. So in a way we can say that USA was strategically opposite to India in Cold War. India slowly for its military needs started moving close to the USSR bloc. This further deteriorated the relations between India and USA. The Pakistan-US defense relations and India-USSR strategic relations had further deteriorated the Indo-US bilateral relations. After the disintegration of USSR. Since the Cold War culmination, Indo-US bilateral relationship has only seen upward direction and has reinforced strategic ties. Both countries started moving closer to each other after the cold war and continue to do so. Both countries want to enhance cooperation through strategic partnership and defense collaboration. Both sides have identified potential areas of strategic cooperation, especially in defense, space, maritime, science and technology.

Some of the key factors which are responsible for the close ties between USA and India after the Cold War are:

2. The Economic Factor

United States of America looks towards economic policy of India not only in terms of increasing joint trade and investment, but also as a broad strategic concern. U.S. also says that the Indian economy has the power of the South Asia. **They also realize its potential for a major player on the international scene. India and the US inked an Open Skies Agreement in April 2005 to help exchange, the travel industry and business².** India additionally put in a request of 68 US Boeing air ship for Air India at an expense of US \$8 billion. The individual affinity which was shared by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W Bush guaranteed the ties stayed on an upward direction. In 2005, the two nations inked the New Framework for the US-India Defense Relationship recognizing needs for collaboration in sea security and counter-fight against terrorism. The understanding likewise gave a fillip to joint military activities between the military of the two nations.

A debate is quickly evolving, which estimates that U.S. concerns on the economy of the India are over ambitious. According to this debate current constructive economic progresses of the India must take into account in the light of Indo-American economic relations. Bruce Gilley of Princeton University argues that the India has already turned into a developed economy that can compete its national interest. He notes, "The country is forging a proudly democratic model of economic reforms. According to the India she continued the economic stability for growth towards a stable economy and prevents the economic collapse of the kind faced by Asian tigers in the 1990s. In the United States, it is also widely believe that Indian economy will positively grow and U.S is ready to take full advantage of that development of Indian economy (Mishra B., Vol.29, 2005). Trade between the United States and the India is relatively low, but has increased in recent years. In 2004, US merchandise exports to and imports from India are estimated to have totaled \$6.1 billion and \$15.5 billion, respectively, making India the 24th largest U.S export market and the 18th largest supplier of US imports. In 2004, US merchandise exports to India rose by 22.6%, while imports rose by 18.4%, over 2003 levels. Major US exports to India included electrical machinery, chemicals, unfinished diamonds. Top US imports from India were non-metallic According to Indian government data, the United States is India's second largest source of FDI with cumulative FDI at \$4.1 billion or 10.6% of total FDI in India³. Major sectors for US FDI include energy, telecommunications, and electrical equipment. Anil Chait in his article states that, the U.S has reviewed the prospects of the India and has largely decided that if the United States is to remain competitive in the business in the long term, India must remain in its central policy. There are three vital economic interests of U.S in India. First of all, the India grants to the United States with considerable brain power to maintain American creativity. The India is a multicultural democratic country speaking English and Indian brain drain has already demonstrated its contribution to the U.S. economy.

3. The China Factor

India is enormously attentive to the rise of the People's Republic of China. Indians understand better than most that Asia is being fundamentally changed by the weight of China's economic power and diplomatic skills. As the Indian leadership thinks strategically, its contingency planning is likely to be aligned and coordinated with the US for Asia to have an economic counterweight" (Kennedy, 1987). In addition, India is deeply troubled by the chain of China's policy of pearls of the establishment of military and naval installations near the India, especially in Myanmar and Pakistan. Americans are also concerned by the unpredictable behavior of China. "The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), recently released by the Pentagon identifies China as only potential long-term military threat to the United States⁴. While no body suggests that the India and the United States should join in containing China militarily, there are obvious convergence of the interests of the two countries exchange notes and keeping a suspicious look on the policies and actions of China. Hence, the significance of the reference in the US National Security Strategy 2002 lies in the common interests of both countries in a strategically stable Asia"(Mansingh, 2006). The American analysts and foreign policy experts focus china as a future rival which may become hurdle in achieving America's global objectives in the post-cold war era⁵. In the new strategic policy of America, India is seen as a counterweight to China because of its vast potential to become a big power. Prior to the incident of September 11, the containment of China has always been objectives of American foreign policy and the history of the adversarial relationship between the India and China and the emergence of China as a major power in the subcontinent are factors that have made India a favorable ally of the United States in the region. India has also the aspiration to become the major power in Asia. The biggest hurdle in this regards is China, so the convergence of interests provided opportunity to India and the US, to form a strategic alliance to fulfill their goals. In fact, China was the only easily foreseeable threats to the US interests beyond the primary vital interests of self-defense.

4. Indo American community

The Indo-American community in the United States equipped with their achievement and prosperity developed their wealth and their talent into political power in recent years. They comprise "the second largest Asian-American population in the US surpassed only by the Chinese" (Hathaway, vol. 24, 2001). Academic success and the economic situation of this community is also prominent (58% of adult community has at least a Bachelor's degree, against 21.5% white). "Reflecting their concentration in the medical, scientific and information technology fields, the per capita income of Indian-Americans exceeds that of every other group in the country" (Hathaway, vol.24, 2001).

The lobbying of Indo-American community in U.S had played a great role in Indo-US engagement. The Caucus of the India and Indian-Americans is the largest group in the U.S Congress with 186 members. The part of Indian Caucus played during the Frost period in Indo-American ties because of Pokhran II was remarkable, especially to mobilize assistance for the removing of economic sanctions against the India. In fact, it is accepted that President Clinton on the India policy was at a level that reflects the influence of the indo-American community in Washington. American pressure on Nawaz Sharif during the Kargil conflict was initiated and behavior by the politically vocal voices of immigrants from the India. The political Action Committee of the United States and India (USINPAC) consist of Americans of Indian origin was designed in 2003 (at Washington) to influence the substantive issues affecting the indo-American community and the Indo-U.S. relations. The extraordinary contribution of this Committee was the amplification of the amendment Anti - terrorism, which was adopted by the House International Relations Committee on 7th May, 2003. "The Manzullo-Velazquez Amendment is another milestone, which was passed on the July 7, 2004, by a vote of 281-137 in the House of Representatives on the Loan Guarantee Programme. This has been a major priority of the USINPAC and the Indo-American business community for quite some time. The Committee is working closely with the Caucus to devise a strategy for the Indo-American small business community to gain from government support through loan guarantees. Indo-US connection entered another stage in the post 9/11 period as military collaboration and vital association began to pick up force. Both the Vajpayee organization and

Bush organization should be credited for accomplishing progress in reciprocal connection, especially in regard of subsequent stage in a vital association which was an understanding marked in 2004 on innovation and business. In 2002, USA firmly censured Pakistan's job in supporting cross-fringe psychological warfare in India. In 2005 George Bush facilitated Prime Minister Singh in Washington DC and the 2 chiefs reported the effective finish of subsequent stage in a key association. They additionally consulted to coordinate in common atomic and space matters. All the while the requirement for progressively genuine barrier participation, joint R&D, including innovation move, co-improvement, and co-generation, was accentuated by both the countries¹ Bush responded the visit in 2006. It is in 2006 that India earned bipartisan help in US Congress for the Indo-US non-military personnel atomic arrangement. India-US relations during Prime Minister Singh's residency: as to Barack Obama and Manmohan Singh's impression of two-sided connection, the accompanying issues require uncommon notice In the underlying long stretches of Obama's Presidency, the center was upon 'AF-PAK' arrangement which reestablished Pakistan as fundamental to US technique on counter-psychological oppression.

There are many other factors which have brought both the countries closer which are counter terrorism, strategic needs, military needs etc. In short we can say both the countries need each other and their good relations are important for stable world.

5. Conclusion

In the event that we need to investigate the connection among USA and India we need to investigate the past .The relations between these two nations developed gradually during and after the cold war and came to this phase where these are presently .The significant stage and the leap forward between these two nations actually took place after the disintegration of USSR .With the crumbling of USSR it lost its past greatness and financial power, so India was left with no other option but to look at different choices for its monetary and military needs and after the finish of cold war there was just a single alternative that is USA . USA had most strong economy and military in the world and had the option to set up its solid control in world .so understanding the geo governmental issues of the world India began to gradually move towards USA since it was nearly satisfying every one of the requirements India had.'

More recently USA has laid great emphasis on the good relations with India because the USA finds itself democratically more similar with India and also wants to use India against the expansion of the Chinese communist regime. India in return has received great military hardware from USA and has also got trade benefits. At the end, we can clearly say that there was always a scope and potential for the improvement and better relations between India and USA but it only started yielding its true potential after the cold war era. The main factors which brought US and India closer to each other are the fight against terrorism , the Indian community in USA , the China factor and the most important advantage which India has which attracts the whole world including USA is India's huge market.

Notes and References

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