

The India-US Strategic Relationship in the 21st Century

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Abstract:

The Indo-US relationship has witnessed a major transformation in the 21st century. However, during the Cold War, the two countries had seen many ups and downs in their relationship. However, after end of the Cold War, the relationship has been improving, especially after 2000, when the former US President, Bill Clinton visited India. Since then, the relationship has witnessed a paradigm shift. Moreover, the US and India have common democratic setup, political pluralism and moreover, strong faith in liberal internationalism, which helped to overcome past bitterness between the two countries. The relationship has become strong and deep in various areas such as defence, counter-terrorism measures, science and technology etc. In this regard, the study would examine how the transformation happened in the relationship. The study would also examine major areas, where the two countries have strong relationship.

Key words: Major Transformation, Cold War, Paradigm Shift, Political Pluralism, Liberal Internationalism, Transformation, Strategic Cooperation

INTRODUCTION

The relationship of India with the US has strengthened since 1990s. However, since 2000, the relationship has strengthened to an unprecedented level and the two countries have made various agreements with each other. Since 2000, both the countries had shown warmth and trust to one another. Moreover, the US and India are the two largest democracies in the world. Both the nations have shared many traditions and faiths equally. In addition, both the countries are multi-cultural, multi-lingual and are having diversity as their strength. Moreover, both India and the US believe that democracy and freedom are their strongest bases for peace, stability and prosperity. Moreover, they have universal expectations and aspirations, so they cannot be constrained by economic and cultural levels only (Cohen 2005).

However, during the Cold War, the two countries have not shared cordial relationship. However, presently, the two countries are convinced that they would succeed together towards a new and purposeful direction. Moreover, the globalization has erased the boundaries and had built networks among countries. So, the US and India are strongly connected together in the globalization era. Their people, economies and culture are mixed. They have coming together and have long cherished aspirations to fulfil (Andersen 2010).

Moreover, India and the US represent fifth of world's population and more than a quarter of world's economy. Moreover, both the countries believe in creative and entrepreneurial societies. Additionally, both the countries are leaders in the information and technology. The business and commerce are in the culture of the two countries. So, this link is strong and deep. So, the 21st century would be the century of India and the US. The relationship will play a significant role to maintain peace, stability, prosperity, freedom and democracy across the globe (Mohan 2016).

Essentially, the India-US relationship strengthened during the tenure of President, Clinton and Prime Minister, Vajpayee. Both the leaders have tried their best to resolve their differences and create a new and closer relationship between the two countries. In the last two decades, the India-US relationship have seen unprecedented level of engagement from partnership to strategic relationship. With the signing of the Indo-US civil nuclear deal in 2005, there has been enhanced cooperation in various areas, such as nuclear security, counter terrorism, non-proliferation and intelligence cooperation (Paranjpe 2013). From Indian point of view, the homeland security dialogue in 2011 was a significant initiative because India is living close to the epicentre of terrorism. In this regard, India has applauded the US efforts to eliminate Al-Qaeda and its leader Osama Bin Laden. In this regard, Indian former Foreign Secretary, Ranjan Mathai had visited the US in 2001 to hold a detailed talks with the US counterpart and other officials. He also offered Indian help to eliminate terrorism in South Asian region. He also talks on different matters including bilateral, regional and global interests (Andersen 2010). Moreover, they also talked about situation of Afghanistan and security concerns in the region.

Moreover, in June 2000, Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton made a standstill in New Delhi and availed opportunity to have deep and detailed discussion with former External Affairs Minister, SM Krishna. Moreover, in same month India had engaged the US in second Indo-US discussion and dialogue on higher education. It was an initiative namely *connect to India*. After that, strategic talks happened in Washington in which Indian side was led by External Affairs Minister and the US side was led by Hillary Clinton. So, the India-US relationship had drawn its strength form shared values, diversity, pluralism and increasing link between the people of the two biggest democracies in the world. Moreover, officials from both the countries promote close ties between the people of

the two countries. Moreover, the private collaboration and public partnership has become centre stage of the strategic dialogue. The comprehensive dialogues happened regarding counterterrorism, cyber-security, information and communication technology, women empowerment, security consultations and major other events (US Department of State 2015).

Moreover, the former US Defence Secretary, Leon Panetta emphasis on security related issues. Moreover, he also stress on the relationship of the two countries in order to promote the shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in Asia, the Pacific region and in the Indian Ocean. So, the two countries are committed to work together in this regard. Moreover, the two countries are also affirmed about the support for regional forums such as ADMM Plus, East Asia Summit and the ASEAN regional forum. Thus both the countries are committed to work in this regard (Kumar 2016).

Furthermore, the US has applauded India's actions in strengthening regional economic connectivity. So, both India and the US are affirmed to promote trade, transit and energy linkages. In this regard, the former US Secretary of State hailed India's efforts in growing engagement in the Asia Pacific. So, both the countries want to enhance consultations on the Indian Ocean. Moreover, India's former External Affairs Minister welcomed the US interest to become a close dialogue partner with the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). He also assured the US that, India will take the US desire with other IOR-ARC members. Moreover, India also highlighted the significance of Afghanistan to maintain peace in the region, especially after withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan since 2014. In this regard, the two countries are committed to sustain international commitment to maintain peace in Afghanistan as it has taken full responsibility for development, security and governance. Moreover, both India and the US had signed strategic

partnership agreement with Afghanistan. So, it is now responsibility of the two countries to enhance their consultations in order to achieve cooperation and strong coordination by promoting sovereign, democratic, united, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, which will help to maintain peace and stability in the region (Chaudhuri 2011).

Moreover, India has also increased its relations with other countries in order to discuss regional and global issues. That is why, India wants its membership in the UNSC to address issues and challenges across the globe. Moreover, to tackle global financial crisis, international terrorism and climate change, both India and the US have strengthen their partnership to a new level (Bhasin 2013).

Transformation in the Relationship since 2000

The major transformation in India's relationship with the US has been started in 2000, when then US President, Bill Clinton visited India. He was only fourth President of the US who had visited India till then. Before that, Jimmy Carter had visited in 1978. Furthermore, President Clinton's visit had reenergise the India-US relationship. So, Clinton's visit had clearly showed that the US wanted to develop strategic relationship with India. In a joint statement Prime Minister, Singh and President, Clinton stated that:

We are two of the world's largest democracies. We are nations forged from many traditions and faiths, proving year after year that diversity is our strength. From vastly different origins and experiences, we have come to the same conclusions, that freedom and democracy are the strongest bases for both peace and prosperity, and that they are universal aspirations, constrained neither by culture nor levels of economic development. There have been times in the past when our relationship drifted without a steady course. As we now look towards the future, we are convinced that it is the time to chart a new and purposeful direction in our relationship (Clinton 2000: 21).

Moreover, then US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice had argued that India had potential to become a major great power in the world and the US would help it to do so. She also contended that the US would like to have a cordial relationship with India. Moreover, Bush administration had changed earlier perception of the US and not perceived India through the prism of non-proliferation regime. It had even regarded India as a strategic and natural ally in the 21st century. However, after 9/11 happened the dramatic changes occurred in the US foreign policy, especially its approach towards terrorism. Earlier, the US had never develop bilateral relations with India in the areas of joint military exercises, counter-terrorism and trade relationship. So, a new era has been started in the India-US relationship after the 9/11 incident (Ganguly, Scobell and Shoup 2006). Moreover, when Rice became the US Secretary of State in 2005, she argued that the US had evolved a realistic approach to build the relationship with India. Moreover, Rice also visited India in 2005, when she was on Asia tour. She had put some unprecedented framework to build a strong relationship with India even that had surprised New Delhi. In that very visit, she had revealed that Bush administration was willing to have a civil nuclear energy cooperation with India (Paranjpe 2013).

Moreover, after Rice visited India in 2005, the US Department of State had announced the Bush administration's new policy with India, which had declared its aim to help India to become a major world power in the 21 century. In this regard, Rice also emphasised that nuclear issue had to be solved, which became major irritant in the relationship for longer time. Moreover, it was clear that the road through strategic cooperation only goes through nuclear cooperation. So, after that both the countries have tried their best to avoid the nuclear issue because it could trigger stress in the relationship. The US had almost accepted India as a legal nuclear power, especially keeping into consideration of India's nuclear track

record. India had never involved in the proliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear weapons (Mohan 2006).

Moreover, it was clear from Bush administration behaviour towards India after 9/11 that the two countries had improved their relationship to an unprecedented level. So, Bush had accepted India as a trusted partner, which was never happened earlier in the India-US relationship. He was also sceptics towards certain states that could not be trusted with highly sensitive nuclear technology because of their political instability and authoritarian regimes. On the other side, he argued that states such as India with its trustful track record vis-à-vis nuclear non-proliferation had to be rewarded. So, Bush administration had clearly declared that only through this criteria the global non-proliferation could be strengthened. In this context, Ashley Tellis argued that the Bush administration's own disagreement to nuclear arms control regimes, such as Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) should be resolved. He further argued that the strong expectation of new states to own nuclear weapons had increased threats across the globe. Tellis further argued that both neo-conservative and realist factions within the Bush administration had to take a more relaxed view point vis-à-vis India's nuclear capabilities and should support its ambition of becoming a major power, which will also help the US to secure its interests in Asia (Tellis 2005).

Moreover, the US had always appreciated India's plural, secular and democratic image, which had also attracted other countries as well. Moreover, Bush administration supposed that the spread of Western values and ideals would promote peace across the globe. So, India would help the US to maintain its status quo in the world (Cohen 2000).

Furthermore, Indian democracy, liberal values, secularism and free market economic model had inspired from the US. Besides, India being the largest democracy in the world

could not be ignored when promotion of democracy was at the heart of the US foreign policy. Moreover, Bush administration had argued that the US statecraft had to be guided by the liberal values that would be only assurance for lasting peace between the two states. In this regard, the US aspired to have a firm foundation of the liberal principles on which peace and security would be maintained. So, in this context, scholar and analyst, Nicholas Burns argued that both the US and India are liberal, secular, multi-ethnic and multicultural countries, with a strong democratic values within civilian control over the military. So, for both the countries security interests has been converge as their central issues of foreign policy that are growing terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, drug trafficking, illegal migration, international crime, narcotics and climate change (Burns 2007).

Cooperation in the area of Climate Change and Clean Energy

Climate Change

The US and India have shared common concerns about the climate change. Both the countries are trying to produce more clean energy. In this regard, both the countries are working together to fight against climate change. Moreover, both the countries are committed to work together and promote climatic awareness in order to address the threats that posed by climate change. Moreover, the leaders are also ready to pursue a strategy in order to achieve low greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the US and India are also working to adopt an hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) amendment in 2016 by increasing financial support from donor countries by providing funds to developing countries in order to implement rules and regulations that would lead towards low carbon emissions. So, both the countries are working to address concerns about increasing gas emission from the international aviation. In

addition, the two countries would work to pursue the eleventh G20 commitments. Moreover, to promote the heavy-duty vehicle efficiency in accordance with respective national capabilities and priorities. Moreover, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to enhance cooperation on clean energy, climate change and to enhance collaboration in the field of gas hydrates. Moreover, to strengthen the cooperation on wildlife conservation as a strategy to increase development imperatives. So, the signing of the MOU has helped to strengthen cooperation in the area of the wildlife combating and their conservation (Ministry of External Affairs 2016).

Partnership in the area of Clean Energy

The US wants to support Indian ambition about solar power energy by installing 175 GW of renewable energy power plants that also includes 100 GW from solar energy power plants. Moreover, the US also acknowledging the international Solar Alliance (ISA). It would play as a critical role in deployment and development of solar power plants. Moreover, the US intends to pursue the membership in ISA. In addition, the US and India are working together to launch third initiative of the ISA that will focus on the off-grid solar energy. Moreover, the US has remained committed with other countries in mobilizing almost \$100 billion every year in order to address genuine needs of developing countries in the process of mitigation and adaptation activities. In addition, the US is also committed to bring technical capacity, private and resources sector that is going to launch new efforts in order to invest more in Indian renewable energy sector that would serve as a model for the other ISA countries (Mishra 2015).

Moreover, the US and India have announced \$20 million US-India clean energy finance (USICEF). So, the project is expected to mobilize almost \$400 million that would help to provide renewable and clean electricity to one million households by the 2020. It is a commitment that would help to

establish the India-US clean energy hub. It would also focus the US efforts to build the partnership with major Indian financial institutions that will increase the renewable energy investment in India. Moreover, the US-India Catalytic Solar Finance Programme (CSFP) that had supported by both the countries would provide much needed liquidity to smaller-scale renewable energy investments. This programme would help to reach electricity to rural and far flung areas, which are not connected with the main grid. In addition, the US and India are committed to the major goals of mission innovation, which both the countries have launched during the COP-21 in order to double their respective research and development on clean energy programme. Moreover, both the countries are also committed to research on grid storage and smart grids (MacArthur Foundation 2016).

Growing Ties of Energy Security

The energy security is becoming one of the top most priority for Indian economic and foreign policies. Due to rapid economic growth in Indian economy since 1990s, it has generated an enormous drive for energy and made it significant for Indian policymakers to introspect seriously vis-à-vis the issue of energy. Moreover, booming energy consumption and intense drive for energy security are raising that had posed number of questions and issues for India. The most significant issue for India is to tackle the growing need of energy (Mohan 2006). So, India needs to explore its own indigenous resources, however, they are not sufficient to balance the growing demands. Therefore, India are dependent on external resources. Thus, energy security has become a new phenomenon that drives social, economic and political transformation in India (Tellis 2006) Moreover, India are trying to meet out the growing energy security with the realization that, it had far behind with other actors such as China. That was main reason India has developed its diplomatic relations with other countries across

the globe. So, India is doing similarly, what China had done to reshape its diplomacy in order to serve its energy needs. Moreover, India's booming economy also needs some new supplies in order to ensure its continued growth (Cohen 2000).

Moreover, India drives to secure its energy resources across the globe. So, it had faced stiff competition with China. However, China are already ahead as for as securing its energy resources in the world are concerned. There are several voices for a cooperative approach with China for innovating new energy resources that would be win-win situation for both the countries. So, the energy security would shape the future India-US and India-China relationships. Moreover, on the other hand, dominance of the US in the Gulf countries are compelling India to re-evaluate its foreign policy vis-à-vis the region (Ganguly 2011).

Partnership in the Maritime, Air, Land, Space and Cyber Security

The US and Indian officials have completed the roadmap for partnership under the 2015 India-US Joint Strategic Vision for the security of the Indian Ocean and the Asia-Pacific. It will help both the countries to collaborate in the upcoming years. So, in this regard, both the countries are looking each other as a close partners in the Indian Ocean and the Asia Pacific region (Mishra 2015). Moreover, the maritime security dialogue would help to fulfil mutual interests in other security domains. So, both the countries are affirmed that they would mutually work in promoting maritime security in the region. Because both India and the US know the significance of the freedom of navigation and exploitation of resources, that too according to the international law. Thus, both the countries are assuring that, it should be in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In addition, the leaders of the two countries have enhance military to military cooperation between the two countries particularly in the areas of the military training, joint

military exercises, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Moreover, they also want to explore other areas that would help in bilateral defence cooperation. So, both the countries have also applauded the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)¹ in 2016. In this regard, the agreement would be very helpful to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries. Moreover, the defence cooperation can become an anchor to maintain peace, order and stability in the region. So, by increasing defence cooperation, the US would consider India as a vital defence partner in the 21st century (Ministry of External Affairs 2016).

Moreover, the US will continue assist India and would provide technology as it did to its closest partners and allies in past. Moreover, officials from both the countries also reached to an understanding that India will receive license free technology to wide range of dual use technologies. For that, India has shown its commitment, that it would not violate international law regarding non-proliferation. Moreover, the US would support New Delhi's make in India programme. So, the US would provide all essential support in development of defence industries and their incorporation into worldwide chain. So, the US will facilitate export of technologies and goods to India that would be in accordance with the US laws. Moreover, in defence

¹ It is an India-specific version of the Logistic Support Agreement (LSA). The US had this agreement with several other countries, which it has close military relations. There are three foundational agreements in it. The Logistic Support Agreement (LSA), Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA). These are considered as foundational agreements which the US signs with countries with which it has share close military cooperation. It will help to build a basic ground and would promote interoperability between militaries by creating common standards and systems. It would also help to guide sale and transfer high technologies. The LEMOA has given access to military facilities on both the sides for refuelling and replenishment. It will cover primarily four areas, which are port calls, disaster relief, joint military exercises, training and humanitarian assistance. Any other agreement would be possible if both the sides agree to do so. There will be no basing of the US troops on Indian soil. It is purely a logistical agreement. Moreover, India can access the US facilities across the globe for logistical support. The US, which has a huge stack in Asia-Pacific will benefit from Indian facilities (Dinakar 2016).

cooperation, the US would provide assistance to India. Moreover, the US officials are committed to support India's make in India initiative and would also provide technology under the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)². According to this initiative, the US would provide India, naval, air and other weapon systems. In this regard, both India and the US have agreed to work on outer space that would expand human endeavours and would help to enhance cooperation on earth observation, spaceflight, space education and mars exploration. In addition, the officials would also work towards the establishment of ISRO-NASA working group that will help in MOU for the exchange of earth satellite (Mohan 2015).

Furthermore, the officials from both the countries emphasise that cyberspace will enable economic development. They have shown their commitment to open, secure and reliable internet facilities. So, both the countries are committed to strengthen cooperation on cyber-security and are willing to finalize the framework for the US-India cyber cooperation. They are ready to make collaboration on crucial issues such as cybercrime, capacity building, malicious cyber activity by the state and non-state actors and cybersecurity research and development. Moreover, they want to continue all aspects of trade technology and other related services that also includes market access. They have also committed to continue the dialogue process in regard of internet governance that also includes the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and various other venues. Moreover, the active support has shown

² DTTI is neither treaty nor law. It aims to enhance the India-US cooperative research, co-production and co-development of capabilities that are needed for the enhancement and modernization of military. The formal defence cooperation of the India-US has started in 1995, when Defence Policy Group (DPG) has been established. However, in 2005, new Defence Framework Agreement was signed between the two countries. This focussed on joint exercises, collaboration in maritime security and counter piracy operations, personnel exchanges, exchange between services, etc. Moreover, in 2015, the US and India have renewed the DFA for next ten years.

from all stakeholders of the two countries in these opportunities. In addition, both the countries officials want to promote stability in the cyberspace that is based on international law in accordance with the UN charter. So, they want to promote the norms of peace, stability and development (Pant and Joshi 2015).

Moreover, to implement practical confidence building initiatives, both India and the US have affirmed their commitment to the norms that no country will conduct or support the online activity that will intentionally damage critical infrastructure or impairs the services to the public. Also, both the countries have affirmed that no country should assist or support the activity to prevent national computer security that are responding to cyber incidents. Moreover, there should be cooperation regarding online activity that intended to prevent incidents regarding computer security or other online activity that intended to harm other countries. In this regard, each country should cooperate with domestic law and other international obligations. Moreover, assistance from other states in mitigating most malicious cyber activity coming from other countries territory. Moreover, countries should avoid to support the Information and Communication technology (ICT) theft regarding intellectual property rights that includes trade secrets or other confidential information regarding business (Mishra 2015). In addition, the intent of providing more competitive advantages that relates about other companies and commercial sectors.

Stand Against terrorism and Extremism

Since 9/11, the perception regarding terrorism and extremism has been changed across the globe. Before the incident, it was considered domestic problem of any particular country. However, after 9/11 it has been considered the serious security threat to entire human civilization. However, both India and the US are facing this threat from long time. That is why, both

the countries have enhanced their efforts in order to face this threat more inclusively and bring justice to the perpetrators who are indulging in terrorism activities in the world and others, who are supporting them through diplomatically, economically or providing arms to them (Pant and Joshi 2015). Moreover, In January 2015, the India-US Joint statement affirmed that, the US-India cooperation is a defining partnership to counter-terrorism in the 21st century. Moreover, both India and the US officials have deepened collaboration against terrorist threats. The leaders from both the countries also affirmed to strengthen the partnership against terrorist threats from these extremist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad, Al-Qaida, and Lashkar-e-Taiba and also other affiliated groups. It also deepened cooperation on the UN terrorist names. Moreover, the officials also identify the areas in order to collaborate the US-India counterterrorism working groups. Moreover, both the countries have recognized the areas to counter terrorism and facilitate sharing of information regarding terrorism. In this regard, the US had also asked Pakistan to act swiftly against the perpetrators of 2008 Mumbai and 2016 Pathankot attacks (Ministry of External Affairs 2017). Moreover, the officials are also committed to support the UN convention on international terrorism, which has strengthened to reinforce that no grievances justifies the terrorism.

Strengthened Trade and Economic Ties

The US and India have aspired to expand and deepen economic cooperation. So, both the countries are committed to support sustainable, robust, inclusive economic growth and make common efforts to enhance consumer demand, skill development, job creation and innovation in different aspects. In addition, substantial increase in the bilateral trade would explore new opportunities to break barriers that are coming in the movement of services and goods to make deeper integration

into the global supply of goods (Raghavan 2015). They will generate new jobs that would lead towards prosperity in both the countries. In addition, both the countries are looking towards commercial and strategic dialogue in coming years. They are committed to increase engagement on trade and larger investment under the Trade Policy Forum (TPF), which will encourage more substantive results for the larger TPF in coming years. They also acknowledged engagement of the US private sector in India's new launched smart city programme (Ministry of External Affairs 2016).

Moreover, in this regard, the US can help India to develop new smart cities, which will also boost economic activities in the country. The officials of both the countries have applauded strong bond between more than 1.5 billion people of the US and India. Moreover, it have also provided a suitable environment to flourish new relationship in diverse areas. That includes tourism, education and business. In addition, the officials are committed to resolve great movement of investors, professionals and businessmen. Moreover, students and visitors would enhance people to people contacts as well as their technological and economic partnership (Raghavan 2015). Moreover, signing of the MOU for development had accelerated traveller initiative that had resolved procedures for Indian entry into the GEP. In addition, the officials from both the countries exchanged in 2015 and 2016 to pursue a much needed US-India Totalization Agreement (USITA)³ and more importantly to resolve continued negotiation on this issue. They have also realize the importance of fostering innovation and to empower entrepreneurship. Moreover, the US has also acknowledged

³ Total agreement would eliminate dual social security taxation. Through this agreement, a worker who works in another country would not have to pay dual social security taxes to both the countries for same earnings. India workers who mostly work for tech companies contribute almost \$1 billion annually to the US without getting benefits. For that they have to stay at least 10 years in the US. However, most of the workers come back after six years because visa are issued only for six years. So far, India has signed this agreement with 18 countries of which 13 have been enforced. On the other side, the US has signed this agreement with 25 countries such as Japan, South Korea and Australia.

India's commitment to host the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit. Moreover, both the countries also desired to enhance the engagement on intellectual property rights under high level working group, which works on the intellectual property rights. They also affirmed commitment to use dialogue process in order to make progress on the IPR issues by enhancing bilateral cooperation in order to foster innovation in both the countries (Ministry of External Affairs 2016). Moreover, the US has also acknowledged Indian efforts to join the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC). In addition, India is playing a dynamic role in the Asian economic activities.

The Growing Defence Ties

The defence cooperation between India and the US had improved drastically since 1990s and particularly after 2000, when Bill Clinton visited India. In 2004, the US had declared that it desired to pursue its goal to deploy initial phase of the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) in India. Moreover, India had extend its support for the security architecture that was proposed by the US. Further, India had hailed the US proposal to cut its nuclear arsenals and build missile defence as a vital effort to move away from controversial legacy of the Cold War (Varadarajan 2004). Moreover, India had contended that technological and strategic inevitability had made world a hostage by doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). Moreover, cooperative and defensive transition that had reinforced further cuts and moreover, would de-escalate nuclear forces (Chaudhuri 2014).

However, it was sharp contrast to India's earlier position vis-à-vis BMD. Moreover, in 2000, the former India's Foreign Minister, Jaswant Singh had severely criticised the BMD on the grounds that it would undermine security across the globe and would create international strategic instability that would adversely affect movement of global disarmament and would lead towards militarization of outer space (Burns 2007).

In India, dramatic change of stance generated a heated debate in the country. As for as, the opposition parties had criticised the government and called it a hasty decision. Even some parties criticised that it had undermine national interest (Raghavan 2015). However, some persons from think tanks, strategic community, and the academe had taken the government stance and supported it. However, inspite of these severe criticisms on BMD, the India-US engagement continued. In this regard, the former US Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage negotiated Indian counterparts and also emphasised Bush administration's vision to have strategic framework in this regard. Moreover, the two sides have worked strongly to frame new security regime. So, this step was also a major signal for the US that India had moved from the Cold War perceptions (Mohan 2006).

After that, various rounds of bilateral and multilateral negotiations held between India and the US on missile defence. Moreover, on the NSSP, India and the US agreed to cooperate and extend their cooperation in areas of civilian and nuclear domain, space cooperation and technology, trade and most importantly to broaden their dialogue on defence sector in order to promote objectives of non-proliferation. Moreover, it had also eased transfer of technology to India. Further, progress on the NSSP had increased due to continuous talks between the two countries. These negotiations have helped a landmark India-US civilian nuclear cooperation that was signed in 2005. Moreover, the US had also decided to engage Pakistan vis-à-vis its defence issues. However, on space and other high technology issues, the two countries had not involved majorly (Burns 2007).

Moreover, the Indo-US negotiations on missile defence have made the Indo-US Defense Policy Group strong and successful. So, it had helped India and the US to shape bilateral cooperation. So, in this regard, India had visited Colorado Springs in order to attend a missile defense reproduction. Additionally, India had also participated in the missile defense

conference in 2002 in Dallas. Moreover, India had also participated in the 2003 multinational missile defence workshop in Japan. In addition, it had also participated in missile defence conference in Germany in 2004. Moreover, it had also been invited missile defence exercise in 2005 in New Mexico (Pant 2016).

Strengthening Cooperation in Science and technology

The India-US relationship has exploring main principles of science and technology. In this regard, an arrangement has been made from the US to assist India in Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) that will help in the formation of the US-India joint oversight group to facilitate an agency to coordinate funding. Moreover, the US officials acknowledged India's participation in the 2016 Ocean Conference in Washington. Moreover, both the countries have strengthen cooperation in ocean energy, protecting ocean biodiversity, marine science, marine pollution and most importantly sustainable use of ocean resources. Moreover, both the countries officials have confirmed that they are committed to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and implement its major objectivities (Sirohi 2016).

Moreover, in this regard, Prime Minister, Modi has noted the steering group and its importance in areas of anti-microbial resistance and most importantly in vaccination. Moreover, the US has also committed their support and collaborate with the WHO. So, both the countries also recognize emerging threat, which has been posed by the multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). So, in this regard, they committed to continue collaborate in the field of tuberculosis and will also share best information and techniques that are used in this area. Moreover, growing danger of non-communicable diseases needs to address risk factors, which would promote healthy lifestyles and strengthening efforts to curb tobacco use. In addition, awareness of health, promote

yoga and other Indian medicines would help to strengthen relationship. So, the officials from both the countries have endorsed the expansion of the US-India Vaccine Action Programme that has fostered partnership of public and private research that would focus on the development and evaluation of vaccine that prevents tuberculosis, chikungunya, dengue and other deadly infectious diseases (Raghavan 2016).

Global Leadership Vision

The US and India are committed to continue work on the wider international community in order to expand size of the UN that can effectively address the grievances which are facing in the global development and more important security challenges. In this regard, historic adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the year 2015. Moreover, identifying its universality, the leaders from both the countries affirmed their commitment to fully implement the agenda domestically with commitment and moreover, work in a cooperative partnership to achieve sustainable development goals (Biswal 2016).

Furthermore, both the countries are committed to reform the UNSC. In this regard, the US will support India as a permanent member in the UNSC. So, in this regard, both India and the US considered that the Security Council (SC) would continue to play a significant role in maintaining peace and stability in the world in accordance with the UN charter. Moreover, the officials are also committed to continue their approach on SC regarding its reformation in the UNSC. Moreover, the officials are also committed to successfully assembling leaders' summit on UN peacekeeping and moreover, are committed to deepen engagement on the UN peacekeeping and making capacity building initiatives in third world countries. Moreover, India also wanted to organize the UN peacekeeping course for African partners for ten participant countries from Africa. The leaders are also committed to support in the ongoing reform movement in the UN in order to

strengthen peacekeeping operations. In addition, the bilateral engagement with African countries such as India-Africa forum Summit and the US-Africa Leaders' Summit has reflected the India-US common interest and shared working partners in order to promote peace, security and prosperity across the globe, particularly in third world countries (Brewster 2016). Moreover, the leaders are also affirmed that cooperation with African countries would promote areas such as energy, agriculture, health, women empowerment etc. Additionally, both the countries are affirmed to deepen the cooperation in the India-US global development partnership in Africa as well as in Asia and other regions (Ministry of External Affairs 2017).

CONCLUSION

India and the US have a strong bilateral relationship in diverse areas. The partnership is based on shared interests and goals including economic growth and sustainable development. In addition, both the countries are trying to develop clean sources of energy that would help in protecting our environment for future generations. Moreover, the two countries have organized joint workshops, joint projects, exchange visits of scientists and networking in various areas such as applied science, health and medical science, environment and earth, science and technology, mathematics and engineering, science and innovation. So, these are some of the potential areas between the US and India in which they can maintain active engagement in order to foster new cooperation and build new private-public cooperation, which will support innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. So, the India-US current relationship has changed from past legacies and has moved toward a strategic cooperation.

So, in the 21st century, the India-US relationship has passed from estrangement to strategic cooperation. The relationship has improved due to shared common democratic

values, diversity in culture, and common threat from terrorism, illegal trafficking, illegal immigration etc. So, the India-US relationship is considered as the best in modern times, especially taking into consideration the Cold War rivalry. So, the relationship has lot of trust from both the sides. Moreover, there are many convergent interests, which both the countries would like to achieve in future.

Moreover, India and the US are representing fifth of world's population and more than a quarter of world's economy. Furthermore, both the countries believe in creative and entrepreneurial societies. Moreover, both the countries are leaders in the information and technology. The business and commerce are in the culture of the two countries. So, this link is strong and deep between the two countries. Further, the 21st century would be the century of India and the US. Moreover, the relationship will play a significant role to maintain, peace, stability, prosperity, freedom and democracy across the globe. There is a strong opportunity and deep responsibility for India and the US to work together. So, the partnership would be shared principles that will lead to natural partnership and shared endeavours.

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