



Significance of Emerging Indo-USA Relationship: A Study

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Abstract:

The strategic partnership between the United States and India is founded on shared values, including a commitment to democracy and a rules-based international order. Both countries are aligned in their goals of promoting international security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and enhanced connectivity. The United States backs India's rise as a significant global power, contributing to the preservation of the Indo-Pacific region as a zone of peace, stability, and growing wealth. Therefore the researcher has made an attempt to study the areas of co operation between the two countries and to study the bilateral issues creating differences between the two countries. This study is based on the secondary source of information since it is descriptive in nature. It concludes that there is a convergence of Interests for both countries on the issues of common concerns. So both countries can play a positive role while gaining mutual interests. Although disputes are also prevailing there but needs to be aside for future bilateral engagement and partnership.

Keywords: *United States, Commerce, Investment, And Connectivity, Security, Stability, And Economic.*

Background of the Study:

The end of cold war, and more especially after 9/11/2001, a growing awareness of India's strategic potential has led to landmark change of United States foreign policy towards India. The Dynamic of India-U.S. relations witnessed many ups and downs during last 60 years of duration. American stand towards India was one of ambivalence after India attained independence. Although **United States played a crucial role for India's independence from British Colonial Jaws.** But after independence, India's quest for an independent role in world affairs, and adoption of socialist economy and attitude created hurdles for American global aspirations in Asia as India was witnessed as Pro-U.S.S.R. country in United States. As a result, the two nations' ties were inconsistent, and American diplomats and intelligence specialists were never able to completely gauge India's significance to the United States' overall geopolitical goals. Except for a short time after the second Chinese attack in 1962, Indo-U.S. relations were tense throughout the Gold conflict.

Due to certain ideals being in opposition to one another, these two estranged democracies have stayed apart in the global community. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought about a number of strategic and politico-diplomatic changes in the Asian scene, particularly in the security environment of South Asia. The

conclusion of the cold war and the Soviet Union's removal from the global strategic framework made it necessary to interact with the west, and the United States in particular, more successfully. In addition, there are other elements like the economic liberalization of India and the expansion of Indian ambitions internationally.

Introduction:

Recognizing the importance of emerging Indo– U.S. bilateral relations, Nicholas Burns under secretary of state (USA) in the year 2007 once remarked *“I think that United States and India have an emerging, major relationship, one of partnership and strategic value in the years ahead. President Bill Clinton recognized this 10 years ago. President George W. Bush recognized this since he took office in 2001. Both of them have been responsible for building a U.S. – India relationship that is fundamentally different from any we have had with India since”* – *Partition*

The relationship between India and the United States has grown to be the most crucial bilateral partnership for India's periphery and strategic, economic, political, and defense-related aspects. Not only will democratic ideals serve as a strong basis for this alliance, but so will the nations' overlapping geostrategic objectives.

Statement of the Problem: India-U.S. bilateral ties have matured into a “global strategic partnership”, built on shared democratic ideals and growing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global concerns. THE SPECTRUM OF INDIA-US RELATIONS IS EXPANDING, and the next ten years may provide more chances for the two nations to coordinate their goals and capacities. Therefore the problem stated here as **“Significance of Emerging Indo - USA Relationship: A Study”**.

Significance of the Study: In the emerging scenario of India– U.S. bilateral partnership, India and United States of America are cooperating in the major areas as– Strategic, Economic and Trade, defense, on Global issues, Science and Technology and in the minor areas of education and climate change. Both countries have their respective interests in the areas like strategic, economic, defense and trade and high technology, education and climate change. India needs United States for strategic help and to contain threat from boundaries, to modernize her army, to strengthen economic growth and to peruse global issues strongly. The study will be very significant since attempts have been made to explore the areas of co operation between the two countries and it also focuses on different issues regarding the bilateral relationship.

Objectives: The current study aims at the following-

- ✓ To study the areas of co operation between the two countries.
- ✓ To study the bilateral issues creating differences between the two countries.

AREAS OF THE EMERGING COOPERATION

Strategic Cooperation/ Partnership:

“The end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union freed India from the political constraints of the past to seek the growth of its connections with all the major nations at the same time. The main national strategic goal was to give the long-established, liberated relationship with the United States—now the only superpower—political and economic substance” (Uma Pursuhothanann, 2012).

Estranged democracies (India-United States) started strategic dialogue when Bill Clinton (President, USA in the year 2000) visited India with a long term strategy and future prospectus. This was American initiative towards India for new relationship in engaging security environment of Asia and to cope-up with American interests in Asia. George W. Bush not only followed the Clinton's path out also introduced new heights in

Indo-U.S. relations when it resulted into ‘Next steps in Strategic Partnership’ in the year 2004. Indo– U.S. peaceful civilian nuclear deal (2005) represents historical milestones in India– U.S. bilateral relations

Nuclear Cooperation:

With various dimensions of national interest and independent foreign policy from Indian perspective, India– USA strategic dialogue traveled through Clinton and Bush administration. Both countries’ negotiations tried to recognize areas for a new and firm partnership that may be mutually beneficial for their respective national interests and strategic needs. Strategic dialogue initiative started during Clinton administration reached up to India– USA civilian nuclear deal. The Indo– U.S. civilian nuclear/deal process started in July 2005 and finalized in Oct. 2007 and signed in 2008.

Counter terrorism cooperation:

Counterterrorism cooperation is a key component of the newly formed strategic alliance between India and the United States of Power. Since the end of the 1980s, India has had to deal with terrorism, which was supported by other nations. Until 9/11/2001, when terrorists assaulted American Pride symbols, the United States was unable to recognize India’s essential comments on the issue of terrorism. Despite the fact that a Joint Working Group (J.W.G.) was formed in 2000¹⁰ to combat terrorism and improve collaboration in this area. The Indo-U.S. Cyber security Forum was established by both nations in 2002 to protect vital infrastructure from cyber attack. One of the four major shared security goals in the year 2005’s “New Framework for the U.S. Indian Defense Relationship” was “defeating” terrorism and violent religious extremism, and it advocated for a strengthening of the mutual defense capabilities necessary for such a goal. As seen by the Mumbai Attacks, both nations closely cooperated in their joint working group against terrorism. In response to the assaults in Mumbai, the U.S. administration reaffirmed its commitment to a strong and helpful relationship with India.¹⁵ Both nations strengthened their bilateral ties under a strategic framework to connect shared security concerns in Asia and throughout the world with an emphasis on counterterrorism cooperation. This collaboration persisted in the face of shared dangers to Indo-American interests in Asia posed by terrorism and insurgency.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP:

A crucial aspect of the two countries’ relationship has been their trade partnership.³³ The U.S. has been India’s principal commercial partner, top investor, first choice for technology purchases, and important source of cash and assistance support throughout the majority of independent India’s economic history. However, during the Cold War, there was a certain degree of “estrangement” due to differing foreign policy concerns. When the Indo-Pak War broke out in 1971 and India conducted its first nuclear test in 1974, the United States and India continued to cooperate closely on economic cooperation. In 1975, the United States was India’s biggest commercial partner and its second-largest investor behind the United Kingdom. When drought forced a “ship to mouth” life in the 1960s, India too got prompt aid from the US for wheat shipments. In the Green Revolution, which revolutionized India’s agricultural industry, the United States and India collaborated closely. The United States provided technology and funding to India.

Export to U.S.A.	Import from U.S.A.
(a) Textiles (17.9%)	(a) Precious stones and metals (16.4%)
(b) Precious stones and metals (16%)	(b) Machinery (16.1%)
(c) Pharmaceutical products (10%)	(c) Mineral fuel, oil etc. (9.2%)
(d) Mineral fuel and oil (7.9%)	(d) Optical Instruments & equipments (9%)
(e) Lac, Gums, Resins (6.3%)	(e) Electrical Machinery (7.7%)

(f) Organic Chemicals (6.1%)	(f) Organic Chemicals (4.1%)
(g) Machinery (5.6%)	(g) Plastic (3.6%)
(h) Electrical Machinery (4.4%)	(h) Iron and Steel (3.2%)

DEFENSE COOPERATION:

“India’s circumstances and geography have shaped India’s strategic culture and traditions. Historically, **India has never been an aggressive power, simple because it did not need to be one**” (Kpodo, K. 2018). But changing environment, especially after India’s independence in 1974, implied many causes that created grave security challenges to India’s security environment. India’s defiance preparedness is a part of securing India’s security concerns and to overcome security threats. “Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the proliferation of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction), the globalization of its economy, and the rise of ideology-linked terrorism are a few of the elements that directly relate India’s security to its wider neighborhood”. In order to successfully contribute as a responsible stakeholder to regional and global place stability, India has increased her involvement in multilateral organizations and developed her strategic partnerships with diverse nations.

COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

Science and technology cooperation between two or more countries enables a range of developments that lead to close collaboration and a mutually beneficial link. The history of the Initiative for Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Cooperation is very recent, and it has a propensity to advance. The United States and India signed a document titled “Next Steps in Strategic Partnership” in 2004 that also included collaboration in the transfer of science and technology and space cooperation. In October 2005, India and the U.S. signed a S/T Agreement that promoted collaborative research, training, and the development of public-private partnerships. Indian and American scientists are working together on this project. In July 2009, India and the US created a combined \$30 million endowment fund as an equal commitment to research and development. “The bilateral Science and Technology forum, which allowed over 10,000 scientists, technologists, and students from the U.S. and India to interact, established 29 virtual joint research centers, organized training programmes, and hosted numerous bilateral conferences, served as a catalyst for the cooperation in science and technology” (Regoli, N. 2019).

BILATERAL ISSUES CREATING DIFFERENCES:

Along with areas of cooperation, there are some burning issues which presents mutual differences between both the countries from a long period. These key areas may be notices as big ones in the development of bilateral relationship and convergence of respective national interests for both the countries some key issues, the burning ones, may be noticed as:

- (a) **Kashmir issue:** Kashmir contradiction is a burning issue between India and Pakistan from last 65 years. U.S. keen interest in South Asia, especially in Pakistan and India, creates many dimensions of correlated interests for thrice countries (India-Pak and United States). India views Kashmir dispute to be an integral issue and rejects any third party or multilateral engagement. “Pakistan supports this issue as the Kashmiri struggle for the right to self-determination. United States with its, key interests in South Asia, has continued its long – standing policy of keeping distance from the Kashmir dispute and reframing any mediation role therein” (Vivek Mishra 2014)

(b) Nonproliferation issues: Nonproliferation issue has always been a great hurdle in “India– U.S. bilateral relationship” as United States always pressed India to sign C.T.B.T. and N.P.T. treaties which India rejected as discriminatory to India’s national interests; discriminatory also for global concerns.

Conclusion:

So there is a convergence of Interests for both countries on the issues of common concerns. So both countries can play a positive role while gaining mutual interests. Although disputes are also prevailing there but needs to be aside for future bilateral engagement and partnership. And this partnership should peruse common value as democratic setup, liberty and justice for all on equitable basis. India– U.S.A. is also working in collaboration on the areas as, cultural ties, education and climate change that are also part of India– U.S. emerging bilateral engagement.

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