



Indo-US Cooperation: An Overview

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Abstract

Both Indian and American declaratory policy clearly shows an interest in improving the once-unstable relationship between the two states. Beginning with Rajiv Gandhi's government in the 1980s Indian Policy has opened more and more to the West, hoping to establish both economic and security ties with the world superpower. Despite recent claims to a "natural" alliance between India and the United States, relations have never truly been so amiable or a political to assume friendship. While the world's two largest democracies" Share may interest and ideologies, fussing the countries in such a liberal alliance have not been possible. Relations between the two states were usually defined by ambivalence if not distaste, in the formative years of cold war Politics. After India's victory in the 1971 war, the US, U.S.S.R and China changed Policy to South Asia, recognized India's preeminence by default. However Washington's Luke-warm response to South Asia generally matched with its continued support for Pakistan's military throughout the Soviet war in Afghanistan in the 1980's depend Indian resentment of U.S hegemony. Even in the early 190's element of the Indian public remained highly skeptical and unwilling to entangle them in western affair.

Despite India's Persistent desire to challenge the global hegemonic order and emerge as an independent, disentangled power. It has recently been moving closer and closer to that order gaining regional power all along. India's economy has been restructured on a western model, beginning in more foreign direct investment and business contacts. It has changed its economy to a western system, is governed by democracy and the rule of law, and supports the United Nations international framework. Additionally The U.S and India have a common goal in defeating Terrorism, bringing the two militaries and governments closer and closer. India has chosen to remain independent on the nuclear perforation issue probably more than any other However recent developments in the U.S India relationship on this issue have done much to bring India to the superpower table and further deepen the relationship. Cooperation in economics surely will have an import on issues of war and peace. However, we may want to consider the current relationship between the United States and China before we give these arguments full explanatory status. China is currently the United States "Largest trading partner and sends many of its citizens to American universities and businesses. However, as we will see below this does not yield automatic cooperation on issues of security. Many Americans still view china with skepticism in this area. Increased economic contacts have not yield an interesting to concentrate on the increase of security dialogue between Indian and the United States, as



in the example of the recent nuclear energy agreement. Issues of war and peace antagonism and alliance, can best be studied in this area.¹

Key words: cordial, global affairs, global peace, collaboration, strategic partnership, new contours.

Introduction

Indo U.S cooperation's have undergone a chequered development since Indian independence. While they reflected the "Cooperative Pattern" at times, the "oppositional pattern" has always existed with respect to certain issues. The two countries continuously cooperated due to certain shared objectives and historical experiences. Both the democracies had faced the trauma of colonial rule and the struggle for independence. At the same time, both have shown their commitment to the democratic way of life. They also support certain common causes, like the opposition to colonialism and racialism. These shared ideals would have resulted in cordial relations between the U.S and India if they had been insulated from the influence of the international set up.²

India and US are two of the greatest democracies in the world. Being democratic government Indo-US cooperation and relation has a long and rich antiquity. Which can be traced back to cold war era? Since then both countries have move from the phase of "estranged democracies to engaged democracies". Their relations are undergoing a qualitative transformation. Cooperation and consultations have broadened and diversified considerably. Both the countries have recognized that closer Indo-US relations would be an important and a positive factor both for stability of the region as well as in the global affairs.

Areas of Cooperation between the two

Military Cooperation

The new framework in the Indian-United States Defense partnership envisages. Under this idea and United States agreed to strengthen capabilities of militaries to defeat terrorism, promote regional and global peace, combat the Proliferation of WMD, increase opportunities for technology transfer, collaboration, co-operation, and research and development and expand collaboration relating to missile defense.

The indo-US joint declaration issued by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush in March 2006, agreed to conclude a Maritime security cooperation Framework to develop new avenues of maritime cooperation and to pursue cooperation in the prevention of trans-national crimes at sea such as Piracy, armed robbery, smuggling and trafficking in arms and drugs. .⁵

Cooperation in Energy sector

The India U.S Energy Dialogue aims to promote increased trade and investment in the energy sector to identify areas of cooperation and collaboration the mobilize secure, clean, reliable



and affordable sources of energy, It consists of five areas including oil and natural gas, coal power and energy efficiency, new and renewable technologies, and civil nuclear energy.⁶

Cooperation in Agriculture Sector

India and US launched India-US knowledge imitative on Agriculture (AKI) in 2005 with a focus on promoting teaching, service and commercial linkage four areas were identified including biotechnological, water Management, human Resources and institutional capacity building.⁸

Indo-US cooperation in agriculture received much attention as a result of the change in US Policy. U.S foreign agricultural Policy too was gradually shifting its focus during this period. Till the mid-fifties American foreign Agricultural policy had become a means of disposing the domestic agricultural surpluses abroad on bargain basement terms. Later on this policy become more subtle and complex as policy makers advantage in commodity production, using agricultural development assistance as a foreign polices instrument. The change in policy found considerable support from American Agricultural input supplies who had discover by then that domestic demand had peaked and they were beginning to seek international markets for their products with founding from ford and Rock feller Foundations, which were 'related' financially to manufactures of form implements and fertilizers, agricultural scientists undertook major efforts to adopt high yield, scientific farming practices to tropical agriculture.

Increased Indo-US cooperation in agriculture was visible in the Intensive Agricultural district Programme popularly known as 'Package' Programme, started in 1960-61 the object was to assure the farmers all assistance they required to increase output. The Programme focused the advantages accruing from concentrated and coordinated efforts in areas with significant agricultural potential. The US aid extended technical assistance to this Programme in cooperation with Ford Foundation the Programme pointed out the direction I which a significant rise in agricultural productivity was possible through modern methods. Unless the farmers had all of the new aids at the right time no significant increase in agricultural productivity could be made the districts were such cooperation brought good results served as demonstrations for formers in the surrounding areas. Under this program, the US also supplied to India iron and steel for making agricultural implements, soil testing equipment, trawlers, boats and cold storage, tube well casing, tractors, combines, modern soils and dairy ;lad poultry equipment.⁹

Cooperation in High Technology trade and transfer

To facilitate cooperation in high technology trade and transfer and US has setup High technology cooperation Group (HTCG). The group seeks a promote strategic trade i.e. access to deal use items through easing of control on exports of such goods to India and to promote and facilitate bilateral high technology commerce in partnership with private sector. The dialogue under the HTCG has led to easing of restrictions on high technology exports to India. The recent meeting of HTCG in 2008 focused on four areas such as Nano technology. Defense and strategic trade, informai5ton technology and Biotechnology and life science.¹⁰



Cooperation in Health

India and United States over the years have established a strong collaboration in the area of public health which extends to wide range of issues- HIV, TB, malaria, Polio, maternal and Child health, Tobacco control, environmental and occupational health, vaccine development, Avian influence and emerging an re-emerging infectious diseases.

Nuclear Cooperation

The ‘impasse on nuclear cooperation’ has been a majors irritant in the Indo-US relations since the seventies. The issue got greater emphasis in eighties due to the Reagan Administration’s commitment to non-proliferation. President Reagan, on 16th July 1981, outlined a broad approach to nuclear proliferation, according to which the prevention of the spread of nuclear explosives would be ‘a basic national security and foreign policy objectives.’ The US would also attempt the promote stability in order to ‘reduce the motivation for requiring’ them as well as secure adherence to the Nuclear Non=-Proliferation treaty. (NNPT), The treaty of Tlateloco and the IAEA safeguards. ¹⁴

The relations between India and US were strained because of India’s stand on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act. Of 1978. A thirty year nuclear-cooperation agreement between Indian and the US, had provided for a low interest loan of \$78 million for the setting-up of a nuclear power plan on 3rd August 1963. Under this agreement, the US had acquired monopoly over the supply of fuel to the plant in return India had entered into an agreement with US (27th January 1971) the observe the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. However, this spirit of cooperation had ended with passage of the NNPT (1978), especially in view of India’s nuclear exposition at Pokhran in 1974. The U.S threatened the termination of fuel supplies if India did not accept all the safeguards. India refused to be influenced by such threats. It opposed the treaty which imposed restrictions on the non-nuclear weapon states. It charged the U.S of attempting “monopolization of nuclear energy” and suppression of its economic independence” This disagreement which had started in 1973 continued during the Presidency of r. Reagan ¹⁵

New Contours of INDO-US Relations:

A strategic partnership between two countries may be defined in terms of shared values and areas of cooperation in the spheres of defence, foreign policy, economy, energy, human resource development, and environment by taking into account existing geo-political realities and diplomatic practices. A strategic partnership should be viewed as a long term commitment and it is essential that both partners develop a clear understanding and vision about its objectives and practices. It is also imperative that a strategic partnership be based on mutual trust and respect for each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity for each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and shared values. Deliberating upon India-United States relations in October 2008. Barak Obama had said the India is a “natural strategic partner” for America in the 21st century and that the United States should be working with India on a range of critical issues from preventing terrorism to promoting peace and stability in Asia.



Commenting on the Obama administration's policy towards South Asia on September 9, 2009, U.S Assistant Secretary of State of South and central Asian Affairs Robert O. Blake Jr. said the new U.S-India Strategic Dialogue will increase the scope and breadth of cooperation between both the two nations across five key pillars: strategic cooperation ; science, technology, health, and innovation; energy and climate change; education and development; and . economics, trade. Agriculture.¹⁸

Foundation of current cooperation

By the mid of 1980's the relationship between India and the US was beginning to mature with cooperation in technical and economic fields. The personal chemistry between President Reagan and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi played a key role in this change. The two motions reached agreements on the issues of nuclear fuel supply for the Tarapur plant in India. Launched imitative for cooperation in science and technology, and year 1985 was to be observed as year of India in the US. The American economic aid to India resumed focusing on the venture capital and technology transfer instead of the traditional aid in agricultural and health sectors. However, for Indians the US aid was for too little to support the large population of about 85 million.

Following Indira Gandhi's 1984 visit to the US, the talks on the sale of military hardware to India resumed. The US wanted India to develop its own defence production capability, but provided little "real" help. The mistrust at both ends prevented any defence deals from being realized. The US Department of Defence (DOD) prevented the deals from being finalized due to the strong anti-India and Pro-Pakistan sentiments. DDD argued that the American equipment provided to India would fall into the Soviet hands. At the same time Indians doubted the US reliability based on past experience. The Americans had backed out of deals like nuclear fuel for the Tarapur plant and had cut off arms supply unilaterally during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. The American terms of contract favored themselves since they retained the privilege of backing out of agreements unilaterally at any time.

During the eighties India had a strained economic relationship with the US. The US wielded its influence in the international financial institutions by blocking loans to India from the World Bank, International Development Authority (IDA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) the reason cited for such actions by the US, was India's failure to condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. For India these were the main successes of development funds. The relations continued to be sour and Indira Gandhi charged the U.S of "siding with a dilator at the expense of democracy, India and the US disagreed in major issues in the UN. India led the way, along with Brazil, to oppose the developed nations in the various rounds of WTO takes.¹⁹

The event following 9/11 changed the US perception on terrorism some analysts may have thought that this would be a turning point in the Indo-US relationship.²⁰



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