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INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN INDIAN BORDER DEFENSE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Ravi Kant Modi*

ABSTRACT

In the years after the end of the Cold War, the United States of America and India formed a strategic partnership in order to respond to the changing political winds on both the local and global levels. The vast majority of the studies that were written on the subject concentrated on the aspects of the strategic ties between the two corporations that overlapped, while disregarding the ways in which they were distinct from one another. In light of this, the study will attempt to identify both potential challenges and opportunities that are associated with the strategic partnership between India and the United States. Therefore, the study analyses both the areas in which they converged and the regions in which they differed in the process of creating their strategic partnership. A strategic relationship between India and the United States with regard to China in the Indo-Pacific region is the subject of the first portion of this study. The second part of the study investigates the challenges that have arisen as a result of disagreements between the United States and Russia about the strategic cooperation in the defence sector. Additionally, it draws attention to the implications that the joint venture between the two nations in the Arctic has for the United States. Furthermore, the essay contains a discussion of additional independent factors, such as Iran and Pakistan, which have an effect on the dependent variables of the strategic alliance between India and the United States.

***KEYWORDS**: Indian Border Defense, Cold War, Strategic Alliance, Indo-Pacific Region.*

Introduction

When the Soviet Union collapsed at the conclusion of the Cold War, it opened up a world of possibilities for India's foreign policy, particularly in terms of strengthening relationships with the United States. As China rose to prominence, it too altered India's relationship with the United States. The United States' Asia-Pacific policy also aligns with India's goals. As an added bonus, American businesses saw India as a promising market. In the years after the Cold War, and particularly in the years following 9/11, these considerations aided the two technology commerce, missile defence, and civilian space programmes. The NSSP was initiated when the two countries indicated their intention to work

* Professor & Dean, School of Commerce & Management, Nirwan University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

together in the areas of civilian nuclear technology, economics, nonproliferation, security, development, democracy, commerce in high-tech goods, and civil space programmes.

The difficulties in formulating a joint strategic vision between India and the United States have received comparatively little attention in the extensive literature on the advantages and potential of an Indo-American strategic relationship. There are a number of limitations and difficulties in the Indo-US strategic connections that may be readily seen with a thorough analysis. The United States' dissatisfaction with India's performance as a counterbalance to China and its involvement in other strategic matters are two examples of these difficulties. Another is India's defence cooperation with Russia, which has recently extended to cover the Arctic area.

The strategic alliance between the United States and India is impacted by several elements, including Russia. As an example, consider India's relationship with Iran. Two, the United States' anticipation that India will play a more positive role in Afghanistan, which it has not done. Thirdly, because of Pakistan's non-NATO ally status in counter-terrorism efforts and its recent pivotal participation in the Afghan peace process, the Pakistan factor was an independent element in Indo-US collaboration. Lastly, due to its membership in regional organisations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRICS), where it has established tight ties with both Russia and China, India is ill-equipped to challenge China's influence in the area, as anticipated by the US. The ability of against the revocation of Article-370.

In view of these difficulties, this article will investigate the often-overlooked effects of these difficulties for US-India strategic collaboration. Because it goes beyond the scope of current collaboration to identify new threats to Indo US strategy, this paper stands out. The United States has doubts about the Indo-Russian relationship. Russia continues to be a leading provider of defence equipment, even if the strategic cooperation between India and the US is increasing. Also, in partnership with Russia, India has started investing in the Arctic. While Russia is establishing a strong presence in the Arctic, US national interests are being undermined since India is also collaborating with Russian enterprises. Concerning US security interests towards India and US defence cooperation, notably in the Arctic area, re-calibrating India's collaboration with Russia presents a substantial challenge. Third, the US Indo-Pacific Strategy and the China factor between India and the US are complementary when it comes to countering China's growing influence, although there is some disagreement over how to define the Indo-Pacific area. Questions like "How and why did the Indo-US strategic partnership emerge?" are among those that the research brings up. The US is concerned about India's defence and Arctic cooperation with Russia, yet India is really working with Russia. What effect would India and Iran's tight collaboration have on their strategic alliance? 4) How would things change if India proved capable of carrying out its responsibilities in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in relation to China

Concept of the Strategic Partnership

Following the conclusion of the Cold War, governments started using strategic alliances as a tool of grand strategy, according to realists who are both defensive and aggressive in their approach. According to Sean Kay, it is a fresh institutional embodiment of global interactions that have emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. Both those who are realistic on the offensive and those who are defensive have shared the view that the great ambitions of countries are connected to strategic relationships. By means of this system, the states have been successful in accomplishing their two objectives, namely primacy and balance. When applied to this scenario, primacy denotes that one state would desire to maintain control of the system and to do it in a unipolar manner, while other countries are free to use it for international politics in their quest of a multipolar reality. technology is possible that technology will assist diplomats in navigating the difficulties of international politics by serving as a rhetorical device. Taking American policy analysts as an example, the ambiguity of the word causes them to gravitate towards the rhetoric and operational characteristics of the profession. It is possible that the importance of a connection will set it apart from other relationships. Some of them are architecturally complicated,

while others have meanings that are readily apparent. There has been an impact of strategic partnerships on alliances as well as other instruments of foreign policy coordination.

Objectives

- The Study International Collaboration in Indian Border Defense.
- The Study India Formed a Strategic Partnership in Respond Opportunities and Challenges

The United States of America has been involved in a variety of programmes via its arrangements for foreign policy. These programmes include alliances, reassurance-based cooperation, controlled power decline, justified cooperation, and balancing. In order to preserve its preeminent position in the international system, the United States of America prioritises maintaining a state of equilibrium in its foreign policy. In the context of state foreign policy, strategic alliances serve as an instrument that contributes to the preservation of the power balance.

The two largest democracies have been referred to as "comrades at odds" and "the cold peace" in order to describe their relationship with one another. Numerous famous scholars have devoted a significant amount of time and energy to analysing the strategic partnership were a number of factors that prevented the two superpowers from forming an alliance during the Cold War. These factors included the animosity that the United States had towards India, Pakistan's position as a strategic ally of the United States, the Vietnam War, the Hungarian problem, India's leaning towards the former Soviet Union, and the country's nuclear programme. On the other hand, a number of researchers who specialise in strategic studies have pointed out that both the United States of America and India saw shifts in their internal and external policies as a consequence of the geostrategic and geopolitical dynamics that occurred following the collapse of the Soviet Union. According to Arthur Rubinoff, the policy of bias that the United States of America has towards Asia, and India in particular, has been moulded by a number of recent events.

These events include the collapse of the Soviet Union, India's turn towards neoliberalism, and the nuclear testing that Pakistan and India have performed. Traditional Cold War alliances were falling apart at the same time as new alliances were beginning to take form in Asia. At the same time, relations between India and the United States were beginning to improve. In light of the emergence of a new paradigm in security governance known as strategic partnership, it became absolutely necessary for Indians and Americans to collaborate in order to protect their respective interests.

A strategic partnership between India and the United States has as its aims the promotion of economic cooperation between India and the United States as well as the resolution of challenges of mutual security that are presented by China. Following the conclusion of the Cold War, the heads of state of India and the United States collaborated in order to jointly construct a strategic alliance that was founded on a foundation of shared concerns and considerations. There are a number of relationships and exchanges that take place within this security concerns are also taken into consideration.

It was possible for leaders in Washington and New Delhi to complete a strategic partnership during the first decade of the new century as a result of the changing character of relations between the United States and India. After the end of the Cold War, S. Paul Kapur and Sumit Ganguly brought attention to changes that occurred at the structural, domestic, and personal levels of leadership in India. Taking a more comprehensive approach, the conclusion of the Cold War between the United States of America and the Soviet Union prompted India to reassess its foreign policy in relation to the United States, while the United States, in turn, started to see India through anti-Soviet lenses. India's economic reforms, which included a move away from socialist economic policies and towards liberal ones, further distanced the two nations' common interests on a more local level. This was the case because India's economic reforms, which included a shift, were implemented.

The leaders of India and the United States required to modify their views and political choices towards one another's concerns, which may be risky at times, in order to pave the way for a strategic alliance between the two countries. As a result, this suggests that the change in the nature of bilateral

relations that occurred during the Cold War is a significant factor in the case of a strategic alliance between India and the United States. The end of the Cold War brought about changes in both India and the United States' internal and external connections, which led to the formation of a strategic alliance between the two countries with the United States.

The leaders of the two capitals eventually came to an agreement on a strategic collaboration after passing up several opportunities over the course of several decades. Consider, for instance, the United States' wish for India to ratify nonproliferation regimes; nevertheless, this policy objective was unsuccessful when it was attempted. Among the several policy possibilities that were taken into consideration was the possibility of shifting Washington's non-nuclear proliferation policies away from India. The objective of reorienting Indo-American relations away from chances that failed to materialise and towards a strategic partnership was successfully accomplished. The United States of America can depend on a powerful India to fight China's goals in the area and beyond, at least according to the brief that Bronson Percival has provided. The manner in which the United States of America deals with India is impacted whenever China adopts a more assertive approach. Having strengthened its security links with the United States, India may now openly "act East" rather than "look East" as a consequence of this development. During this time, Indian military-to-military ties were permitted, and the government was able to obtain military gear manufactured in the United States for ten billion dollars. When it comes to Iran, the United States' adjustment of India has helped to hold down Tehran's acquisition of nuclear weapons. In order to address worries over China's influence on the security situation in Asia, the United States has undertaken many efforts, both domestically and internationally, to include India into its strategic ring.

In spite of the fact that the United States of America and India have made some headway towards forming a strategic alliance, there are still a great deal of issues that remain unsolved between the two nations. To begin, India and the United States have policies that are somewhat or tightly coordinated on the following issues: the peacekeeping mission, the control of nonproliferation exports, and the control of weapons. An additional aspect to consider is that the degree of agreement between India and Pakistan, China, Iran, and Afghanistan with regard to the safety of the Indian Ocean is somewhere between moderate and poor. There are three further areas in which the United States' policy and the Indian policy are in conflict with one another. These areas include the management of nuclear weapons, the engagement of the United States in nuclear contracts, and the Iraq War in 2003. According to Dinshaw Mistry, India's policies are not always in sync with the most critical strategic issues. This is due to the fact that India's internal political and economic structure is not always in sync with the policies of other countries. When the United States of America increases its military and economic strength against its rivals, however, India's objectives often converge with those of the United States. Both nations have been working together to create strategic linkages between the United States and India; yet, they have each discovered their own distinct set of challenges that need to be resolved.

The Case of South China Sea

China has presented India with a number of challenges in a variety of areas. The first reason is that China has presented a military threat to India as a result of the conflicts that have arisen along its borders. A second point to consider is that China has a more powerful voice in global forums, including the United Nations and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Third, China is building its strategic alliance with Pakistan and other South Asian nations in an attempt to restrict India's influence. This is being done in an effort to limit India's influence. A fourth point to consider is that China's economic prowess has overtaken that of India. India has expressed its willingness to collaborate with the governments of the United States and other littoral nations in the South China Sea, which is next to China's jurisdiction, in order to resolve these issues. India has pursued this via the ideas of "extended neighbourhood" and "Indo-Pacific" in order to keep the South China Sea on its strategic radar. The need of safeguarding India's strategic interests in regions other than South Asia was the impetus for the establishment of the extended neighbourhood in the year 2000. In respond to China's strategic backyard in the South China Sea, and this is evident in this.

The Russian Factor

In spite of the fact that India is in the process of forming a strategic alliance with the United States, it is still maintaining its military and economic relations with Russia, which is its reliable and long-standing friend. The United States of America has expressed its Russia meeting, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, shared his opinion with Vladimir Putin, saying, "An old friend is better than two new ones." According to the statements made by Prime Minister Modi, India will When compared to the expanding partnerships that Russia has with China and Pakistan, the connections that Russia has with Pakistan and China are more beneficial and different. India and Russia have been working together on defence projects for a considerable amount of time, dating back to the 1950s. During the time of the Cold War, India and Russia increased their defence connections owing to the fact that they shared interests in the development of geopolitical trends. A multitude of weaponry, such as aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft/helicopters, the SU-30 MKI, upgraded Sukhoi, T-90 main battle tanks, and refurbished versions of numerous other weapons, were provided to India by Russia as a result of the improvement in military ties between the two countries.

By introducing cutting-edge military weaponry, Russia has shown that it is capable of competing with the United States. Take, for instance, the S-400 Triumf missile system as an illustration. As a result of President Putin's signing of sixteen military projects with India on October 15, 2016, the S-400 missile system became a component of the security treaties that are in place between India and Russia. According to India's strategic viewpoint, the Russian S-400 missile technology is of enormous significance to the country. It is possible that it will hit as many as thirty-six targets in the sky. The S-400 deal would provide India with five of these systems, and India would get them. Two of them are going to be used against China, and three of them are going to be used against Pakistan. It is able to recognise threats in the air such as aeroplanes, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The system has a range of 400 kilometres and can distinguish between these types of threats. The system will consist of sixteen reloadable missiles, eight launchers, a control centre, and radar. Additional components will be included. According to Rehman (2018), the S-400 system has the capability of detecting an airliner travelling at a speed of 17,000Km/h. In an attempt to thwart the United States' plan to sell weaponry to Russia, Russia is using the strategic benefits of Indo-Russian defence cooperation as pressure to sell India its most lethal weapons. A number of different areas of defence cooperation between Russia and India are shown in Figure 1, which may be seen below.

The Iranian Factor

The presence of the Iranian elements is a significant obstacle that stands in the way of the expansion of the strategic partnership that exists between India and the United States. The fact that India has the second-largest Shia population in the world and that Iran provides help to India in the fields of military, economy, trade, and crude oil combine to make India and Iran powerful friends. In spite of this, India has made concessions to the pressure exerted by the United States and has reduced its significant connections with Iran, most notably by withdrawing from the Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline venture. The countries of India and Iran have collaborated closely in order to assist in the establishment of stability and development in Afghanistan. In terms of the economy, Iran and India collaborate closely with one another when it comes to crude oil and energy. Sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran for exporting refined petroleum products are a source of concern for India and a great number of other nations.

There is a connection between this and the fact that a number of significant Indian firms had difficulty getting loans from the United States Export and Import Bank (Exim Bank) in the amount of around $900 million in order to fund the purchase of equipment manufactured in the United States. The United States government is opposed to any form of close connection that may exist between Iran and India. The United States of America applied pressure on India, stating that the country's civil nuclear pact would be put in jeopardy if it attempted to develop diplomatic links with Iran. During the year

2012, for instance, Secretary of State Clinton advocated for India to restrict its contacts with Iran. As a result, India reduced the amount of oil it imported from Iran by 11%.

Iran served as a gateway to Central Asia and Afghanistan for India, which was a geostrategic need for the country. Each of India, China, and Pakistan is competing with one another for influence in Tehran and across Central Asia. Due to the fact that India and Iran share a history and culture, India is under a substantial amount of pressure to enhance its links with Iran. In light of the present state of affairs on a global scale, and in light of the United States' decision to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Indo-Iranian relations are now facing more challenges than opportunities. What these specialists have to say about the matter is that India and the United States. Given the length of time that has passed, it would be difficult for India to cave in to the demands of the United States that it change its position about Iran. On the other hand, Iran may continue to be a danger to the long-term survival of the strategic partnership between India and the United States.

Conclusion

This talk has made it very evident that there are a number of impediments and bottlenecks that have hindered the strategic collaboration between the United States of America and India from developing into a full-fledged strategic partnership. A number of studies have investigated the prospect of enhancing strategic cooperation between the United States of America and India, as shown by the findings of the study mentioned above. Their strategic partnership has the potential to develop into a long-lasting and extensive strategic alliance; nevertheless, the challenges that stand in the way of its development have received the least amount of attention. The following are the primary factors that have contributed to the strengthening of their relationship, according to the study, which provides an overview of the history and development of the Indo-US strategic partnership. These factors include a shift in the global geopolitical and strategic power dynamics, a trend in US and Indian policy towards greater cooperation, a convergence of interests in limiting China's rise, and the development of a shared strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.

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