

Defence Cooperation between India and US during UPA Government

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Area of defence is of main significance for any country. Defence Cooperation between India and US is a continuous process in strategic as well as bilateral scenario. In the present world, there is a lot of competition in the defence and security area. Hence, many nations are speeding up their strategic partnership with other nations in order to protect each other and built strong security relations. Economic relations between India and US cleared a way to facilities the defence and security relations between two. US expands its defence relations with India due to many reasons like increasing problem of global terrorism, to counter balance the growth of China, radical communal power in Southeast Asia, balancing power in Asian-Pacific region and maintaining stability of South Asia. India also does not

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want to leave the opportunities given by US related to the national interest especially to deal with terrorism and external forces. These reasons transformed the role of military to military relations between India and US to the fully flourished partnership consisted of defence sole, practical cooperation, dialogues, exercises and profession education exchange in military.

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1. Introduction

Area of defence is of main significance for any country. Defence Cooperation between India and US is a continuous process in strategic as well as bilateral scenario. In the present world, there is a lot of competition in the defence and security area. Hence, many nations are speeding up their strategic partnership with other nations in order to protect each other and built strong security relations. Economic relations between India and US cleared a way to facilities the defence and security relations between two (Sharma, 2008). US expands its defence relations with India due to many reasons like increasing problem of global terrorism, to counter balance the growth of China, radical communal power in Southeast Asia, balancing power in Asian-Pacific region and maintaining stability of South Asia. India also does not want to leave the opportunities given by US related to the national interest especially to deal with terrorism and external forces. These reasons transformed the role of military to military relations between India and US to the fully flourished partnership consisted of defence sole, practical cooperation, dialogues, exercises and profession education exchange in military.

US government mentioned India as one of its partner who shared common values. This partnership was welcomed by Indian officials as well as Indian citizens. They believe that it would help to promote democracy and strong bilateral relations between India and US. Although President Clinton framed the defence and security relations with India but after the incidence of 9/11 President Bush prolonged the security relation with India. Another aspect in strengthening the defence cooperation is the exchange of dual-use technology (Dutta, 2016). President Bush played main role in expanding dual-use technology which was also continued by Obama and this transfer has been continuing till present day. It helps India in developing its defence technology and military equipment in efficient way.

In June 2005, the defence minister of India visited Washington which was declared as an un-exploratory visit by Pranab Mukherjee. This visit yielded a ten year Defence Framework Agreement. The updated framework for defence agreement i.e. 'New Framework for India-US Defence Relationship' among India and US was signed on 28 June 2005 by the two states' defence ministers. The heads of both governments also issued the joint statement on 19 July 2005. This agreement is the fundamental transformation in this history of defence and strategic alliance between US and India. This framework helpful in intensifying the defence cooperation between two states by enhancing defence trade, personnel exchanges, exchange of services, joint exercises, cooperation and collaboration in maritime security, counter piracy operations etc (Cohen & Dasgupta, 2011). In October 2005, India and US conducted the largest naval exercise followed by major air and land exercises.

On March 2006, President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh jointly expressed their satisfaction with the strategic partnership between the two to meet up with the global challenges of 21st century. They both agreed that this transformation in the bilateral relations will brings positive and decisive influence in future. US offered to sell aircraft F16s, F18s and other weapons to India which cost 6.9 billion dollars. During the visit of President George W. Bush, it was announced that the two agreements Maritime Security Cooperation and Logistics Support Agreement are being finalized. The Maritime Security Cooperation will facilitate the joint operations of two navies whereas Logistics Support Agreement will interoperate the two armed forces. With this the two can facilitates each other for refueling, maintenance, servicing, communication etc. The joint exercises were conducted under IM6T in which Indian officers were sending to US. The defence cooperation flourished further with the visit of Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defence in 2008 and the visit of Defence Minister of India to US in 2008 at the invitation of Robert Gates. The US and Indian Militaries have been conducting Yudha Abhayas exercises annually since 2004. In 2005, US troops came to India to give training at India's counter insurgency and Jungle Welfare School. In 2006, Indian troops went to Hawaii for training and in 2007, troops travelled to Alaska. In 2008, Indian Air Force participated in the multinational air exercise at Nellis AFB, USA.

India first time participated in 'Red Flag Nellis' event in 2008 which was hosted by US. It was annual multilateral events which

conduct air-to-air exercise. It involves the exercise of defence suppression, attack interdiction, air refueling, air superiority, aircraft scouting, airlift etc. Indian air force favored this exercise as it is helpful for officials in familiarizing them with network-centric warfare of US. US stated that India has ability to develop its own network-centric. It was also decided to send India's young pilots to US so that they can gain long-term benefits from training and exposure given in environment multi-national war-game.

Indo-US defence link was mainly encouraged to counter global terrorism. India provides assistance to US when US declared global war against terrorism. India gave full support to US while obtaining the information about the Al Qaeda terrorist organization and to make this mission successful. India provided over flight rights to US military jet, provided services to US Naval ships at Bombay and Cochin ports and also help them in search-deliver tasks. India hoped that US would favor India after 9/11 incident as India is fighting against terrorism from decades. India was right and Washington responded by resorting all the sanctions implemented on India in 1998.

Indo-US cooperation to counter-terrorism shows considerable progress by sharing intelligence, operational cooperation, information exchange and access to advanced technology and equipment. To expand the collaboration to counter-terrorism the new initiative named 'India-US Counter Terrorism Cooperation' was signed in 2010. It helps in increasing the information sharing and capacity building to counter-terrorism (Bhonsle, 2012). Also, during the visit of President Obama to India in November 2010 the Homeland Security Dialogue was announced to exchange the technology transfer, capacity building to counter-terrorism and to deepen the operational cooperation related to counter-terrorism.

In May 2011, Janet Napolitano US Secretary of Homeland Security visited India to hold first round of dialogue whereas the second meeting was held in Washington DC in May 2013. Sub-groups of each Homeland Security Dialogue were reviewed in these meetings. The subgroups include cyber-security and critical infrastructure protection, Megacities policing, science and technology cooperation, combating illicit finance, bulk cash smuggling and counterfeiting, capacity building and port, border, maritime, transportation and supply chain security.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama met at Washington DC from 25 September to 1 October 2013 (Website of Former Prime Minister of India). In the joint statement, both leaders expressed their happiness and satisfaction on the transformation of US-India relations. They proudly marked that the association between the two countries is stronger today than at any point in the 67 year history. Both of them expressed that the next decade will be more transformative in positive sense especially in area of security, trade, higher education, agriculture, energy, environment and architecture. They also showed their willingness to extend security cooperation between US and India on the issues of cyber, space, health and counter terrorism. They also wanted to strengthen the defence trade cooperation by endorsing joint declaration on defence co-operation to increase technology transfer in defence, joint research, co-production and co-development (Dutta, 2016). Obama encourage India to enhance its defence capacities and also invited India to participate in Rim of the Pacific Naval exercise which was hosted by USA in 2014. They also conversed on joint efforts required to suppress terrorism. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama strongly criticized the terrorist attack of 26 September 2013 in Samba, Jammu and Kashmir. To eliminate the terrorism they reaffirmed about the destruction of terrorist network including Lashkar-e-Taiba and Al-Qa'ida. They also called Pakistan to work together to brought justice to Mumbai attack in November 2008. The use of chemical weapons in Syria was condemned by both the leaders. They also emphasized that the global norms regarding the use of chemical weapons should be maintained by each and everyone.

2. Energy and Clean Energy

Another important sector in defence relation of India and US is energy. Energy comprises of national gas, fossil fuels, hydropower, oil, solar power, coal, geo-thermal power, bio energy etc. is also very important for every country. Hence, energy cooperation between two states is very significant/ vital to develop defence relations. On May 31, 2005 to promote the Indo-US trade and investment in energy sector the dialogue on India-US Energy was launched. This was launched to explore further areas of collaboration and cooperation while actively working with both private as well as public sectors. In this initiative five working groups was formed i.e. coal, oil and gas,

power and energy efficiency, new technologies, renewable energy and civil nuclear cooperation. In September 2012, the meeting of these working groups took place and in the meeting enhancing of energy generation from renewables and low carbon resources, export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India from US, renewable energy technologies, utilization of carbon dioxide released through carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) in alternative uses such as manufacture or fertilizers, storage technologies, enhanced oil recovery (EOR) and other methodologies to make CCS commercially viable, the possibilities of large scale cooperation in integration of renewables with the grid, to access the emission of carbon dioxide from different industries and to initiate the steps to reduce such emissions and also the establishment of new working group on low carbon growth were discussed.

India need for energy is growing constantly as with the increase of economy. India's 70% of total oil requirement is fulfilling through imported oil whereas only 60% of its electricity is generated with coal. This is the cause of worry as both the energy resources are non-renewable and is depleting fast. Also, the power plants which fired coal are not sustainable due to global warming. Hence, it is very important for India to look after the alternate and clean sources of energy. This is the main aim of Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement which helps India to develop clean energy source. Due to the abundance of Thorium in India, she planned to use Thorium as a fuel under its three stages nuclear programme. This nuclear agreement facilities India to develop nuclear power plants with the help of western companies by using their modern technologies without consisting any military use of this nuclear programme (Cohen & Dasgupta, 2011).

In November 2010, an agreement was signed between India and US for cooperation on Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC). This joint venture was specially designed to promote innovations by scientists from India and US which uses clean energy. It has total joint committed funding of 50 million dollars from both the governments. This center has funded three research projects in the field of second generation bio-fuels, solar energy and energy efficiency of buildings. Under this agreement, both the governments announced to provide each 5 million dollars annually for next five years as their share of research cost.

3. Maritime Security

In defence relations, the maritime security is also a vital issue. Indian national security and Indian Ocean are linked very closely to each other. India had dependent on other capable nations for operating in Indian Ocean as it did not have any well-planned and effective naval policy (Purushothaman & Mohanty, 2011). The trade, economic growth, territorial integrity, industrial development, political independence, scientific development and its free nation existence all are closely related with the security and defence policy in Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Therefore, it is very significant for India to develop a sound national security policy in Indian Ocean Region in order to secure its interest.

US and India was conducting Malabar joint exercises since 1992 with their naval forces to strengthen maritime cooperation. From 2002, this Malabar exercises included communication drills, underway replenishment, military exercises and personnel exchanges. From 2003 and 2004, the activities were further extended including submarine operations with anti-submarine patrol. Malabar 2005 included aircraft carrying warship operations. By Malabar 2006, first time US expeditionary strike group considered to take part in joint land and water exercises at large scale. The activities for Malabar-2007 were very wide which held in south-west of Andaman Islands with area 350km led to the Malacca Straits. The main role of these exercises was to secure Ocean-lines collaborated through counter psychological warfare. These activities are also helpful for naval forces to learn about stages and hardware required for arrangements needed for future. In Malabar-2007 event three planes USS Nimitz, USS Kitty Hawk and INS Viraat was displayed first time (Bhonsle, 2012).

4. Arms Deal

Arms are important for any country to maintain its integrity and security. To deal with the adverse situation such as when one country attacks on other, crack down the terrorist organizations, to capture criminals etc. arms are needed. Arms deals or arms trade are the agreement between two countries to sell or buy weapons. It is the global industry which can manufacture and sell weapons as well as military technology. The firms in public and private sector conduct research, develop, produce and service military equipment, material and facilities. The customers can be armed forces of any state or can

be civilians. Countries who do not have capability to develop advanced arms can depend upon the arms trade to obtain necessary arms in order to defend themselves in effective way whereas the countries who have capability to produce advanced arms can see the arms trade as a profitable trade which can boost their economy. India shares long border with many countries such as with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Afghanistan, also it has two neighbouring islands- Sri Lanka and Maldives. Due to its border sharing with various country there is also a threat of being attacked by these one or collaborative countries. Hence, India needs a strong defence forces- land, air and marine so that it can tackle the any hostile situation. In order to make its defence system powerful, it is very essential to have advanced weapons and these weapons can be owned by signing several arm deals with other countries. Various arm deals were signed during the tenure of Dr. Manmohan Singh. The main arms deal between India and US was came under the leadership of Dr. Singh in 2002 with the conveyance 12 counter-battery radar sets or fire discover radars of worth 190 million dollars by Pentagon. In 2004, this deal goes up to 540 million dollars with the purchase of air ship self-security framework. In 2006, the New Delhi government approved 44 million dollars to buy US Trenton, a decommissioned American land on potentially water competent transported dock. In 2008, transport airplanes from US, this was of worth about 1 billion dollar.

5. Cyber Security

Cyber security can also be known as electronic information security or information technology security. This term implies the practice of shielding servers, computers, mobile devices, data, networks and electronic systems from malicious attacks. Basically, it is the protection provided to the internet connected systems such as data, software and hardware from any kind of cyber-threats. This practice can be implemented by individual user or by enterprises to protect their data from unauthorized access. In 21st century, cyber security is the major challenge emerges in front of world as due to the easy access to technology number of users of internet, devices and programmes are increased significantly. In this increasing numbers people with wrong intentions also increases. The cases of cyber-attacks are growing rapidly. These cyber attackers have their different motives. In the same path, India and US faced the problem

of cyber crime. They cooperate and work in collaborative manner with each other to solve this problem. In order to prevent cyber terrorism, President Bush took steps globally as well as regionally. Since 2002, Indo-US Cyber Security Forum was established to address the issue of cyber terror. Both the countries are willing to regulate cyber space crime. Both the countries have corporate areas which are willing to develop linkage among their information technology industries. Former defence minister of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee visited US in 2005 where the ten-year agreement was signed related to innovation exchange and co-creations.

6. Conclusion

India has a wide variety of territories from deserts to mountains covered with ice which could assist military of US in its preparations. US always acknowledge the Indian soldiers for their military abilities especially fighting at high heights, maintaining peace and counter insurgency. This relationship is beneficial for both the states as US have equipment and innovation whereas India has important role in economy and information. Defence area is very significant for any country especially for the state like India as it shares long border with seven countries and marine border with two islands. Need of the hour is to develop the strong defence system to protect its internal security. Hence, in order to strengthen the defence area of India various defence agreements were signed between India and US during time period of UPA government.

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