

INDO-US NEW STRATEGIC BONHOMIE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract: *In this paper, an effort is made to conclude the ‘Indo-US strategic bonhomie in the 21st century’. This research work intends to show attention towards the Indo-US strategic collaboration along with emerging India’s security concerns in the 21st century. It is trustworthy verity that Indo-US strategic partnership working for maintains stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region. The Chinese militarily emergence is the biggest security threats for US’s strategic interests in the across Indo-Pacific region. . As, the US requires India as a front-line state, in order to combat the Chinese influence as well as maintaining of the regional security framework. As well as, India needs US cooperation for defense modernization and for containing Chinese hegemony. India wants to minimize excess Dragon pressure on Indo-China border with US assistance. This paper tries to explore the fact and facets why India and the US started a new strategic bonhomie in the 21st century.*

Keywords: strategic, partnership, relations, cooperation

Backdrop

It is a fact that, Indo-US strategic partnership affects not only India-Russia long-standing strategic alliance, but, the US-Pakistan defence cooperation also. Nevertheless, any sort of improvement in the US-Pakistan relations inevitably creates downbeat implication on Indo-US bilateral strategic cooperation. It is the reality that Indo-US relations have witnessed a mixture of ups and downs during the different phases of the Cold War. However, after the end of Cold War, Indo-US defence and strategic cooperation has enhanced unpredictably and strategic partnership has added new aspects to the relationship between the two countries mainly in post 9/11 period. At present, Indo-US relations are developing strategic relations with an encouraging stance. It is considerable fact that India and the US had attempted to develop cordial bilateral relationship, but there were some problems in it. Both the nations were dealing with various regional and global tribulations with incompatible views.

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India had serious disagreement with the US during the Cold War era. India and the US have different views on various regional and global problems of that time. India did not regard the same as the US policy of containment and another side, the US had supported Pakistan on Kashmir. India's allegiance to the Non-aligned movement was not much liked by the US, and India's nuclear enlargement programme was point of strain in the US-India bilateral relationship. India's stand on Afghanistan crisis had also irritated the then US policy makers. Nixon-Kissinger cordial relations with China have unenthusiastically affected the Indo-US relations. Nixon and Regan Administration had adopted pro-Pakistan stance in Indian sub-continent and it affected Indo-US relations. Thus, due to the Cold-War estrangement, both countries had to hold a complex relationship. There is not denying the reality that the Cold-War strained environment blocked the US tilt towards India. Thus, due to the Cold-War drifting apart, both countries' relations have constantly been overwrought till 1990. After the Cold-War, the US had adopted a balanced policy defying its long-standing strategic partnership with Pakistan.¹

Disintegration of Soviet Union and, consequently, the end of Cold War had motivated both countries to start a warm bilateral relationship in the changing geo-political and geo-strategic setting. India re-adjusted its foreign and strategic policy priorities in accordance with the uni-polar strategic environment. The US was also discontented with the activities of its long-standing strategic cohort Pakistan. It is requisite to have a discussion about that the Indo-US coordination was started with sluggish step-forward in the new world order. For that reason, the US started sluggish defence partnership with India. The study shows the positive impact of Soviet Union collapse on the Indo-US relationship. It is mention to note that India's liberalization plan in 1990s also motivated both countries to deepen economic ties.²

There are some reasons behind the growing synergies of Indo-US relations in the post-Cold War phase. India's gigantic and promising market was accountable for cordial bilateral political relations. As the foreign policy of one country is shaped by its national security interests, so, in case of the US that was same. The US has been paying attention to India's rising market, so it was paying attention to making responsive relations with India. India's presentation in Information Technology (IT) is well known to the world community. In the opening of 1990s, India had to affix itself to the first Gulf War crisis. Due to Persian Gulf War, a major financial and structural weakness of Indian economy had come to the surface. To recover this crisis, in the early 1990's, then Indian Prime Minister Narashima Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh adopted some new approaches. Key aspects of these approaches included adopting a structural adjustment regime, reducing tariffs and agricultural subsidies, loosening industrial regulations, and paring-down India's massive public sector. India's new market-oriented approach has helped its economic growth. After

¹ Kronstadt, K.A. (2009). Pakistan-US Relations. Library of Congress Washington DC, Congressional Research Service.

² Muni, S. D., & Chadha, V. (2014). *Asian Strategic Review 2014: US pivot and Asian security*. Pentagon Press and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

adopting the liberal economic policy, New Delhi was competent to make high-quality political dealings with Washington.³

In this perspective, India's Pokhran II nuclear detonation had made a pessimistic impact on Indo-US bilateral ties for subsequently two years. In response to India's nuclear tests, the Clinton Administration imposed strong economic and nuclear sanctions upon India. However, these sanctions had a slight-shock for an Indo-US bilateral relationship. These sanctions could not lead a long strain between the two nations' relationship. The then US President Clinton visited India to boost bilateral ties in the new century and this visit had instigated the extent of the bilateral ties between the two countries. For the enlargement of bilateral relations, US President Clinton showed American curiosity in strategic engagement with India. The Indo-US strategic partnership has diverse ramifications for Russia, China and Pakistan. It is a real fact that Russia, China and Pakistan are constantly displeased with the US mounting strategic rendezvous with India.⁴

New Indo-US Bonhomie in 21st Century

This holistic historic context, it appears that there have been serious reasons for the two countries to the carry-on strategic partnership. In the early hours of the 21st century, the US started customized its South-Asia policy to provide accommodation to India's strategic interests and security concerns. At that time, the US considered India's emergence as a positive moment in global affairs and another side, India seeming the US position as a security provider in the Asia-Pacific. As well as, the US policy-makers considered India's materialization as a strategic sense of stability.

Furthermore, for expansion of strategic ties with India, the US had set-aside sanctions upon India in 2001 and started to normalize relations. Indo-US relations had initiated to develop an economic, energy and technological fields. After the 9/11 incident, terrorism has remained a principal global threat. The US Administration has threatened to Pakistan for the flourishing of terrorism. In post 9/11 set of connections, both India and the US iron-willed to collaborate closely to contain international terrorism. Although, American continuous prop-up to Pakistan to combat terrorist roots in Afghanistan unrelenting to stay-put a sticking-point in the warm strategic relationship between India and the US. To one side from this, the US had expanded counter-terrorism partnership and military to military rendezvous with India. It is far and wide studied that American strategic ties with India have apparent and important off-putting implications for China and Pakistan's security. The reason d'être of the American strategic rendezvous with India has been pointed out.⁵

In the midst of various governmental plans in two-sided cooperation, the 'Next Steps for Strategic Partnership' was introduced to start strategic partnership amid the two nations in

³ Nandy, D.(2014). INDO-US ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION: THE POST COLD WAR SCENARIO (1991-2006). *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(5.2).

⁴ Mishra, B. (2005). India-US Relations: A Paradigm Shift. *Strategic Analysis*, 29(1), 79-100.

⁵ Gupta, A. K. (2010). CIVIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION-THE ROAD TO NON-PROLIFERATION. *Pakistan Journal of International Relations*, 2(1).

2004. India and the US strengthened the strategic partnership to neutralize the existing and coming global challenges. Indo-US defence ties crossed the new way as soon as 10 years 'New Framework of Defence Agreement' was signed in 2005. India and the US defence relation based on three areas: defence trade, military to military cooperation and respond to campaign against terrorism and Chinese assertiveness. For that, the 'Defence Technology and Trade Initiative' (DTTI) was initiated to enlarge defence trade between the two nations. The DTTI agreement has become softer regulation to transfer of American defence technology to India and conceptualize the co-production and co-development of defence arsenals.⁶

The Indo-US nuclear agreement was signed in 2008 with the NSG waiver and it ended India's 34 years nuclear isolation. Without being a member of NPT and NSG, India was permitted to put-up for sale of nuclear material. There is no reason d'être to undermine the one important fact that the US had signed the deal in spite of India not signing NPT. The 123-civil nuclear deal was initiated to set-up nuclear power plants in India because of it necessitate heavy water for fast breeder reactor programme. The nuclear deal was not a hurdle, but it offered additional energy at a time when India's energy demands were high. It was a feather in the cap for India. It was introduced to satisfy the energy needs of India. It is well-known fact that the Indo-US 123 civil nuclear agreement is the centerpiece of two-sided energy cooperation. The 123 civil nuclear agreement was the remarkable achievement of the Indo-US strategic partnership. There is no denying the fact that nuclear energy is a most feasible alternative for India under the rising shock of climate change. It can be understood that the Indo-US relationship has enhanced in the 21st century and touched new momentum following the signing of a strategic partnership.⁷

The concept of strategic dialogue was conceptualized in 2009 with the five paramount areas of common strategic collaboration. The strategic dialogues focused the bilateral issues and discussed the key issues that increasing bilateral trade, improving India's energy security, giving-out terror intelligence, buying defence purchases from the US and the strategic interests in the naval sphere of influence and challenges to stability in Asia-Pacific region.

The US considered that the Chinese rise posed the utmost insecurity across the world. The US considered that Chinese emergence has posed the larger implication for the security and stability of entire Asia-Pacific region. The US has rationalized and modernised India's defence preparedness in accordance to address emerging security concerns from China. The US knows that India will serve the American strategic interests in preserving the sense of balance in South Asia and also sustain harmony and constancy in the Indian Ocean area. China has always suspected towards the growing strategic partnership of India and the US. China considered that since the 9/11 event, the US has determinedly set-up its hegemonic in the Asia-Pacific region in the name of the war on terror. China perceived that India has

⁶ Mistry, Dinshaw & Ganguly, Sumit (2006). *The US-India Nuclear Pact: A Good Deal*. *Current History*, 105(694).

⁷ Mohan, C. Raja (2006). *Impossible Allies: Nuclear India, United States, and the Global Order*. India Research Press, New Delhi.

widened overall strategic sense of balance in support of the US. It is the reality that the US has enlarged rapprochement with India to counter China's assertiveness. Due to growing Chinese military assertiveness, both (India and US) have faced geo-strategic challenges from and across the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, the US wants to counter Chinese hegemonic ambitions with the like-minded nations such as Japan, India and Australia. The concept of 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' has affirmed this geo-strategic reality.⁸

The US introduced 'pivot-Asia' policy in respect of Asia-Pacific region to defy Chinese pressure. The US rebalancing strategy was introduced in 2011 to deal with the Chinese terrorization in the Asia-Pacific region. The US's rebalancing policy, which stipulated 'Obama Doctrine' focused to counter China's aggressiveness with the help-out of its strategic allies and like-minded nations in Asia-Pacific. Due to growing India's armed and economic clout in South Asia, it has played a pivotal role to implement the US's rebalancing strategy. Thus, US's policy was paying attention to respond to China with the assistance of India. It is without a doubt give the impression that India and the US signed Logistic Support Agreement in 2016 to counter China's assertiveness in South Asia. According to this agreement, both nations would be utilized each other strategic sea-port. Yet, China raised its unease on the subject of Indo-US Logistic Support Agreement.⁹

Both, India and the US are distressed concerning China sponsored 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC), which was connected through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to Gwadar to China's Xinjiang province. The China sponsored 'One Belt-One Road', which would be dreadful for India's regional sovereignty and security interests. Because Chinese economic corridor would be passing through Indian Territory of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK). Moreover, China has recently introduced '21st century Maritime Silk Road' to expand its geo-economic and geopolitical interests. China developed strategic port named Gwadar in Pakistan province Baluchistan to fulfill its geo-economic and geostrategic interests. China used Pakistan as a 'satellite-state' to counter India's interests in South Asia therefore US backing is must for India. Pakistan backed China strategy to contradict growing India military potential as a regional power in South Asia.

India has been consolidating South Asian regional security posture to neutralize Pakistan sponsored terrorism and rising China's forcefulness. Both the countries, Pakistan and China are formulating nexus against India and it will be proved a big security threat to India's security. The China-Pakistan defence and strategic alliance is evolving anti-India feelings. China-Pakistan nexus wants to mobilize all South Asian countries to combat India's emergence on regional platform. China has evolved a strategy to encircle by building a 'string of pearls' to undermine India's security interests. China's policy focused to establish strategic infrastructure in India's immediate neighbourhood. China has evolved these ports in India's immediate neighbourhood countries, such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar and the Maldives and it will definitely challenge India's security.

⁸ Chacko, Priya (2014). A New "Special Relationship"? Power Transitions, Ontological Security, and India-US Relations. *International Studies Perspectives*, 15(3).

⁹ Chatterjee, Aneek (2005). Human Rights and India-US Relations During the Rao Premiership. *Jadavpur Journal of International Relations*, 9(1).

The appearance of China as an economic and military super-power has been caused the distress for India and the US. The China-Pakistan nexus was the growing concerns for India's security Interests. China used Pakistan as a 'front-line state' to counter India's strategic interests. China supported Pakistan state-sponsored terrorism as a tool against India's security. China used United Nations Security Council (UNSC) veto power in resistance to India to shield Pakistan based terrorists. China aided Pakistan to modernize its military capability against India. So, India supported the US to respond to the Chinese assertiveness and Pakistan based terrorism. Although, Pakistan pivots to China in the course of spanning new concerns over the US ties with India. India wants to combat China-Pakistan strategic nexus to maintain its regional security. As a consequence, Indo-US strategic cooperation was based to neutralize security concerns from China and Pakistan.

Washington's sensitivity to international terrorism had been completely changed after the shocking attacks on World Trade Center's (W.T.C.) twin towers in New York by Al-Qaida on 11 September 2001. The then Bush Administration's solid and speedy reply to 9/11 raised India's hopes of a compassionate and effectual US act to force Pakistan to remove the terrorist camps operating from within its region. Washington perceived that if Islamabad took some courageous and stringent steps in opposition to Taliban terrorist group and stopped-up its hold-up to the internal terrorist group, only then countering terrorism could be possible to some extent.

As per as India's regional reflection was transferred into global reflection, the US had started side-lining Pakistan as a front-line state. Indo-US cooperation on terrorism has been flourishing after 26/11 unpleasant incident. After the Mumbai blast, India fashioned a well-built pressure on the US with strong evidence to declare Pakistan as a terrorist nation state. America-Pakistan relations hit a severe blow after Osama killing. After the US operation in Abbottabad (Pakistan) in May 2011, the US had rebuked Pakistan because of providing of safe house to terrorists. As result, the US changed its position toward Pakistan and took hard-hitting stand-point towards Pakistani sponsoring terror. The US assured India to share critical information to combat terror. Both the countries marked terror as common threats of the 21st century. India has always pressurized the Pentagon to act against Pakistan based terror base camp; nevertheless, the US only criticized Pakistan's terror activities, did not act against it.

Yet, Trump Administration warns Pakistan of repercussions if it fails to take action against notorious terrorist Hafiz Saeed. The US acknowledged Pakistan's connection with international terrorism. The US further acknowledged that Pakistan was mixed-up in anti-Indian activities. It calls for to say, it was a big gain for India. The American political establishment did not think about India's required to speak-out Pakistan as a terrorist's country. India had raised its concerns about American double-minded policy to tackle global terrorism. India wants the US should adopt a uniform global terror policy to counter existing terror threats.

In February 2016, the Obama Administration had announced its intent to make available eight America made F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan that had led to a chorus of disapproval from the Indian side. Although, Washington had dropping plans due to financing

the fighter jets. India has always raised serious concerns towards the American arsenals supply to Pakistan. But the Obama Administration had tried to please Indian security concerns towards the American weapons make available to Pakistan and lessen the military give support to Pakistan. Pakistan considers that Indo-US strategic relations can destabilize and de-balance South Asia.

India's security distress is escalating due to the disturbed immediate neighbourhood and complex regional strategic environment. India's strategic interests in South-Asia has three-fold; firstly, protects regional sovereignty, secondly to control Pakistan terror and thirdly to neutralize Chinese pressure. India is emerging on the global platform as an economic and armed power and the US can contribute to fulfilling India's global aspirations. India wants to minimize its existing security concerns with the assistance of the US. The US can play a meaning role to meet-out India's peripheral security concerns. India can bring into play the US advanced technology to give attention to on its security threats. China wants to counter the US hegemony across the global level that is why China's assertiveness emerged time to time. Due to China's emergence, the US has been providing defence technology and advance arsenals to India. Indo-US growing military-strategic convergence cannot be undermining. The clear-cut objective of this collaboration is to strategic deterrence to China. In particular, India's participation in the new strategic game has raised strategic concerns for China.

There is, clearly, in the case of India and the US raised their serious concerns about maritime security in South China Sea and Indian Ocean. Growing China's forcefulness in the South China Sea is a big security concern for ASEAN as well as others countries of the world. China is manipulating traditional security architecture in the South China Sea. India has used the South China Sea to passing through its 55% of total trade. That is why; maritime security is the paramount area of India's security concerns. India and the US, both want to implement 'United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982) verdict towards Vietnam plea against China with regard to South China Sea impasse.

The Indian Ocean region, owing to its geo-strategic importance, has been the area of global strategic competition. The US has considered India's inevitable role in the Indian Ocean region. India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean region also presents both possibility and concerns. Both sides (India and the US) have been promoting tranquility, material comfort and stability in Indian Ocean area. India's growing naval competence, especially in the international waters, could be a fruitful for the US strategic interests, just as its flourishing economic benefits of the US firms. The Indian Navy, mainly the Coast Guard is currently seen, as an expected collaborator to the US's Navy and its other strategic partners in the entire range of maritime-related activities. Both countries' navies have cooperated on anti-piracy operations, more than ever in the Indian Ocean and in the South China Sea.

The two Navies' cooperation required to accomplish search, rescue operations, counter marine pollution, act in response to natural disasters, tackle existing threats and improve cooperative capabilities other transnational crimes at international waters together with through logistics support. It is conceivable fact that India and the US have always

convergence in the Indian Ocean only just for presence and deterrence not for dominate. The two nations have mobilized the interoperability of both Navies within the framework of naval cooperation. The warning from Chinese Navy, having prompted the Indo-US naval and air cooperation in the Indian Ocean. The Malabar exercise was the manifestation of an escalating maritime and security relationship between the two nations.

Indo-US strategic cooperation has paying attention to lessen 21st century security challenges, which are faced by humanity in the recent times. The Indo-US strategic partnership has broader implications not only for Indo-Pacific, but, also for global security scenario. Due to convergences of strategic interests, India and the US have one-liner come within reach of towards regional security, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and maritime security in South-China Sea. India and the US have collected move towards the international threats such as coming-out of ISIS, global warming, climate-change and refugee crisis. Both the countries renewed its defence framework agreement in June 2015 to foster bilateral defence relations. After the singled-out of the US army from Afghanistan, Washington knows that India would take part in a crucial position to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan. India and the US, both actively engaged in 'heart of Asia' conferences vis-a-vis Afghanistan's future and stability. Trump Administration admire India's role in Afghanistan's economic development, security and stability.¹⁰

Washington backs India's efforts to expand in United Nation Security Council (UNSC) as a permanent member. Due to growing energy requirement, India wishes to be entered in all four global export control regimes. India has been eager to become a member of the four Global Export Control Regimes— Nuclear Supplier Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement. Since 2010, the US supported India's bid for the four Global Export Control Regime. US facilitated India's entry in Missile Transfer Control Regime (MTCR) Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group and assured India to be entered in Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG). India's entry to Missile Technology Regime strength of character opens the line of attack to procure High-end Missile Equipment Technology and also making more matter-of-fact its objective to get surveillance drones. India's hard-work to grow to be a member of the MTCR began after the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008. China blocked India's admission into NSG. China contrasting India's NSG proposal for its own selfish reasons as it doesn't want India to be another super-power in the South Asia. Chinese effort cannot keep away India from these Regimes for long, as India grows with the faster pace, the world will follow India in next decade and offer not only NSG seat, but the permanent membership in UNSC as well.¹¹

There is a common consideration that Indo-US strategic relationship is deepening day by day. Despite the above discussed positive signs, yet, India and the US relationship have a variety of differences due to regional and global contradictory circumstances. India has not

¹⁰ Mattoo, Amitabh. (1999). *India's Nuclear Deterrent: Pokhran II and Beyond*. Har-Anand Publication. New Delhi.

¹¹ Mishra, R.K. (1996). *India and International Relations*. Kanishka Publication, New Delhi.

supported the US neo-imperialized policy and criticized Washington's intervention in developing and third world countries on the basis of human rights, the undemocratic regime and chemical weapons. India has always raised its objections towards the US strategies over Syria, Iraq, Iran and Yemen crisis. India has not liked the US-led unipolar international system and always preferred multi-polarity at the global level. Washington has led an off-putting plan on the subject of India's human rights status, nuclear programme and the swiftness of trade and industry reforms. There were various differences such as slow progress on a civil nuclear deal, NSA surveillance of Indian leaders and consulates and Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) agreement. The US pressurized India to opening its economy even India has removed some hindrances to foreign direct investment (FDI). Both countries shared their disagreements on the immigration issue, trade impasse and global warming issue etc. India has always raised its concerns with reference to the US economic as well as military backing to Pakistan. India had raised its concerns with the US towards F-16 Fighting Falcon supply to Pakistan and raised strong objections towards the US-Pakistan defence ties. The US shows its displeasure with India's embrace with Russia. The most up-to-date substantiation of the Indo-US ties comes at a point in time when Pakistan's partial convergence with the US on Afghanistan may be vanishing. The US wants Pakistan's assistance in stabilizing of Afghanistan and wants Indian direct involvement in the restoration of democracy in Afghanistan.¹²

During the 21st century, there are more convergences than divergences in Indo-US ties. India and the US have common interests in China's forcefulness, Afghanistan stability, North Korean nuclear programme and Middle East problem. Both the countries want to crack-down the terrorist organization like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Haqqani network and Jaish-e-Mohammad etc. Both the countries want to destroy the Afghanistan-based Taliban militant group and enhance reconstruction in Afghanistan. That is why; India and the US have broader consent to deal with regional and international security and strategic issues.

India and the US are predetermined to work on all of the bilateral foreign policy priorities, reaching a common understanding on differences and have deep desire to work in a coordinating way. Due to growing China threats, India signed Logistic Support Agreement with the US in 2016. Many experts of International Relations called it India's diversion of its long-standing Non-alignment policy. Many critics called Logistic Agreement as an Indo-US military pact. But, due to security threats from China, India needs such type of strategic agreement with the US. In December 2016, the US had acknowledged India's role as a major defence partner. It facilitates the progress made to share defence trade and technology-sharing with India to a level at par with that of the US closest strategic allies and partners and ensures enduring cooperation into the future. At the moment, the American policy-makers move to offer India the position of a close strategic collaborator. It has become obvious that

¹² Mishra, S.K. (2006). *India's Nuclear Policy, Disarmament and International Security*, Radha Publication, New Delhi.

America wishes to bring India on the same level with its NATO allies. It is clear that the US continues to extend its support to India's go-up as a world power.¹³

In 2010, the US President Obama acknowledged Indo-US relations as a 'defining partnership of 21st century'. On the other hand, it is also comprehensible that America can become India's supporter in its incongruity with China. It is becoming lucid that the US is preparing India to lessen the Chinese weight in South Asia. India had tilted too far towards the US, and too antagonistic with China. The Trump Administration has fashioned a new foreign policy course in South Asia by taking on India and hostility towards the American long-standing ally Pakistan. This shift is measured in US policy because of India's rising economic and military power.¹⁴

The US is passionate to share cutting-edge military technologies to India and it appears to be coming for closer ties between the two countries. The US has opened-up all military and technologies doors to India and encouraged Israel and other strategic partners to carry-out so as well. Besides, the US defence and strategic help encourage India to counter-balance assertiveness of China and Pakistan. Nearly all considerably, India approved the US position on the South China Sea issue and two countries reaffirming the "significance of freedom of navigation and over-flight all over the region, together within the South China Sea" and vowed prop-up for "a regional security structural design". There is more scope of broader strategic rendezvous between the two countries on the matter of terrorism and neutralize China measures. Furthermore, the Trump Administration has introduced its 'South-Asia policy', which paying attention on India's larger role in Afghanistan. The new 'South Asia policy' of Trump Administration has hailed India's growing role in rebuilding and reconstruction in Afghanistan.¹⁵

There is more anticipation that current Modi government and Trump Administration will effort closely to further strengthening mutual rapport. Indian Prime Minister Modi and US President Trump would give the impression of being to reinforce bilateral strategic engagement, boost defence cooperation and see eye to eye on technology transfer as India looks for to develop into a super-power in the 21st century. Modi government has strong belief that Indo-US strategic relations will touch new heights with Trump Administration on the issues of common global concerns. On strategic frontage, India and the US are intimately connected, so disputes will not have a negative impact on two nation's strategic partnership.

Currently, the US is dealing with India to its four-pillar strategy and dealt India as a close strategic partner. Firstly, the US wants to deteriorate Indo-Russia traditional strategic relations. Secondly, the US wants to counteract China's coming-out as a super-power with the assistance of India. Because, India is a big economic and military, as well as regional

¹³ Mohanty, Nirode (2014). *Indo-US Relations: Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Nuclear Energy*. Lexington Books, US.

¹⁴ Nayak, P. (2007). Prospects for US-India Counterterrorism Cooperation: An American View. In *US-Indian Strategic Cooperation into the 21st Century* (pp. 145-167). Routledge Publication, US.

¹⁵ Sharma, Ashok (2013). *The US-India Strategic Partnership: An Overview Of Defence And Nuclear Courtships*. Georgetown University Press, New Delhi.

power in South Asia and India, have had strained relations with China. Thirdly, the US wants to manage India's large defence market. And fourthly, the US needed Indian cooperation to exterminate global terrorism. These are all rationale behind the US strategic closeness with India. It is mention to note that India is walking a tightrope between US, China and Russia triangle. The Washington is putting pressure on India to reduce arms importing and militarily dependence on Moscow. Despite the mounting US-Russia rivalry on various strategic and economic fronts, India is dealing cautiously the US without criticizing the long standing strategic associate Russia. Thus, in the midst of Moscow-Washington face-off, the New Delhi needs a more balancing approach to deal with these two super-powers. India also needs balance policy regarding mounting tensions between in US-Iran rapport.¹⁶

Concluding Remarks

It can be concluded that Indo-US strategic association has more prospect than problems. The current Trump Administration adopted pro-India stance in South Asia. Trump Administration supporting India's stance on terror and China issue. Although, President Trump's stance on trade and economic issues have also pessimistic affected Indo-US relations. Indian Modi government has also been trying to patching with Trump Administration. Both the countries want to boost strategic partnership at regional as well as at global level. It may also move toward to identify that India is a significant nation whose assistance is crucial for the US to make sure regional security in Asia, to prevent Chinese weight and to trounce international terrorism. Perhaps at that time, the US has been with regard to India's security unease. The Washington has come-up to recognize co-existence and cooperation with rising India. India also needs to do much more to improve military and strategic association with the US.

¹⁶ Shukla, Vatsala (2005). *India's Foreign Policy in the New Millennium*. Atlantic Press, New Delhi.