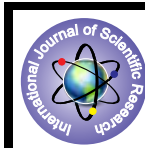


INDIAN'S POLICY TOWARDS UNITED STATES SINCE 1990's



Policy

KEYWORDS : Atomic Energy, Indo-US policies, Non-proliferation, Strategic Partnership, Indo-US nuclear deal, Diplomatic Dialogues.

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ABSTRACT

The historical links between the United States and India can be traced to the year 1492, the year when Christopher Columbus discovered America in the course of his search for a new route to India. But the official and formal links began after India gained independence. American contacts with India had started before the American Revolution through soldiers and seamen who had lived both in the American colonies and in India later both countries had mutual contacts through various agencies such as missionaries, tourists, intellectuals and Indian freedom fighters

INTRODUCTION

Demise of USSR and end of cold war created a tectonic change in policies of India towards United States. Drying Russian aid and economic liberalization made India to move closer towards United States. At the same time India rose to prominence in American foreign policy because of the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean. But post-Pokhran II the policies were again estranged. However realizing that technology control regime is not yielding desired US changed its approach from nuclear non proliferation to nuclear risk reduction.

There was a change in US's attitude during Kargil war. US administration openly criticized Pakistan for its misadventure and advised it to respect LOC. It led to the beginning of a new era in the Indian policy to US

US President Bill Clinton visited India in 2000 and signed a joint statement known as "Vision statement". Both countries agreed to establish a joint working group on counter terrorism. Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee also visited US in the same year. It led to the beginning of strategic partnership between India and United States.

Vajpayee-Bush meeting in 2004 led a signing of next step in strategic partnership (NSSP) covering four areas:

- Civilian space programme.
- Civilian atomic energy cooperation.
- Missile technology programme.
- High technology trade.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to US 2005 was marked as the second step in NSSP. The joint statement signed on 18th July 2005 envisaged for full cooperation in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. (Hindustan Times 2010)

On March 2, 2006 in New Delhi, George W Bush and Manmohan Singh signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement following an initiation during the July 2005 Summit in Washington between the two leaders over civilian nuclear cooperation. The successful passage through the United States congress of the Henry-J. Hyde United States -India peaceful atomic energy cooperation act of 2006 was a landmark event in bilateral ties to enable the United States to extend full civil nuclear cooperation in India. Increasing trade policy of India towards US the trade grew from USD \$ 13.49 billion in 2001 to USD 31.917 billion in 2006. India's export products include gems and jewelry, textiles, organic chemicals and engineering goods. Our main imports from the United States are machinery, precious stones and metals organic chemicals optical and medical instruments aircraft and aviation machinery. US exports to India grew by 26.31 percent in 2006 to reach USD\$ 10.091 billion. While Indian exports to the United States increased by 16.07% to hit USD\$ 21.826 billion. The stock of the actual FDI increased from USD\$ 11.3 billion in 1991 to USD\$ 5.71 billion as of January 2007. (www.indianembassy.org)

The period since 1990 created the opportunity for a significant improvement in Indo-US policies. A growing recognition of covering geopolitical interests and shared democratic and secular

values has replaced mutual distrust resulting from differing perceptions of the soviet threat. Belying prophecies of its imminent collapse India has twice demonstrated its capacity for political renewal and stability in its response to the 1984 and 1991 assassination's of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and the resulting transitions to new leadership India is strong enough internally to sustain the future expansion of its military capabilities and is gradually emerging as a major power. (S.harrison and Geoffrey Kemp 1996) During the premiership of Narasimha rao, The first post cold war prime Minister of India (1991-96) the India faced two major obstacles in his efforts to improve the policy towards US. These were non-proliferation and US concern for human rights in India. India which had not signed the NPT had a missile technology programme which was making major advances during the Rao period. In 1992 India successfully tested the Augment satellite launch vehicle (ASLV) and the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV). In 1994 India test fired "Prithvi" and "Agni" two indigenously built ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads. Plans to launch surface to air missiles (SAM) that is trishul and Akash and an anti-tank missile (ATM) "Nag" were also undertaken during the Rao premiership. India's opposition to the CTBT in the conference on disarmament in the summer of 1996 also went against American interests. The US viewed India's opposition to the CTBT as an infringement of the non-proliferation regime. Since non-proliferation regime was a major focus of US foreign policy during the Clinton presidency.

India's economy policy toward United States began to improve from the early 1990's and this was the result of the launching of India's economic reforms programme in 1991. The trade policy towards US which was little less than US \$6 billion in 1989 reached nearly US\$ 9.5 billion in 1996. During the Rao's period economic segment improved considerably. Therefore it may be said during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's tenure (1991-96) there was only marginal improvement in India's policy with United States. (Chatterjee, Aneek 2004)

During the regime of HD Deve-Gowda and I.K Gujral the policy towards United States was cordial. The trade policy was improved by India at 7.5% in 1996 and 18.7% in 1997 and Indian imports from United States grew at 0.7% in 1996 and 9.1% in 1997. with this the foreign direct investment also increased in I.K Gujral premiership there was the degree of improvement in bilateral ties towards US in 1997-98 and several factors were responsible for this first the Gujral Doctrine was successful in India's international policies and it helped to improve the ties with her neighbors. Due to the improved policy of I.K Gujral the CTBT lost its prominence, it became less important for the ties between India and United States. (Biju, M.R. 2000)

The important high-level reciprocal visits took place during Gujrals short tenure, which was not only indicative of better policies but obviously helped to foster a better understanding between the two countries. Besides Gujrals official visit to United States his industry Minister Murasoli Maran also went to the US to participate in the "destination India" Programme organized to promote investment and tourism in India.

During Atal Behari Vajpayee's first term as Prime Minister of

India (1998 to oct. 13-1999) India US ties reached new low due to India's nuclear tests. Pokhran II had a negative impact on the Clinton administration which viewed India's nuclear tests a challenge to the American led attempts to improve a world-wide no-proliferation regime. A significant development occurred from June 1998 within a month from India's nuclear explosions. India and US engaged themselves in diplomatic dialogues that continued for two and a half year by the mind of 1999 the ties began to limp back to normally. The mutual trust built up by the Jaswant-Singh and Talbot talks may have partly been responsible for the American support to India during the Kargil crisis in 1999. This policy of mutual assistance and trust flourished in the year 2000 also. During the Vajpayee's second term as India's Prime Minister (1999-2004) India's policy to US reached a substantial high. This trend has continued till date although the uncertainty over the Indo-US nuclear deal (CND) in recent years has raised a few hiccups in the ties between the two states.

In the new century India's policy towards US was to Support the United States statement of anti-terrorism. In turn the President George W Bush who had been elected to the American Presidency in 2000 placed due importance with India and decided to include India in his strategic doctrine. (www.embassy 2004)

India was very quick to condemn the 9/11 attacks and offered t side with the US in fight against terrorism. The Indian navy escorted and protected high value American shipping through the Straits of Malacca. India also allowed US fights across its territory and provided refueling facilities for American aircrafts. India's friendly gestures provided the American Navy the logistical support required to conduct its trans-oceanic operations. India's response to the 9/11 attacks galvanized the change in military ties with United States. In 2001 India and United States restarted the defense policy group dialogue after the lapse of five years. The US administration for the first time, Understand India's concern for terrorism and the new administration sent positive signals to India. (www.mea.gov.in)

President Pratiba Patil described the visit of United States President barak Obama as a Historic milestone who in turn responded by saying being in India was an experience and not merely a

visit patil say his visit comes at a time when the Indo-US policies getting stronger nearly three million people of Indian origin in the US act as a bridge of friendship including over 1,00,000 Indian students who along with the growing number of young American coming to India are sowing the seeds of future partnerships.

The president said the two countries had build a strong strategic partnership on the solid bedrock of shared ideals and common interests "the historical civil nuclear initiative is an instrument and a symbol of our transformed ties" she said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as his friend from humble beginnings to the high office your life is an example in itself Obama said praising Singh it elucidates the strategy or the innovative policy of India towards US by which the India got the good response. (Hindu- stan Times 2010)

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- ❖ To know that relation between indo-us
- ❖ To know that nuclear deal with United States
- ❖ To know about that leadership indo-us politicians

METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH WORK

The methodology in this research study is not one-dimensional. It is rather host of historical, theoretical and analytical. The data is being collected from primary as well as secondary sources. Books, Journals and Magazines available in various libraries will be the main source. Reports and records of Government and Non-Government policy makers on the subject will be taken to analyze the facts.

REVIEW OF LITRATURE

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- ❖ Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastav "New Contours of Indo-US Relations- from Strategic distancing to Partnership" (Chronicle Special November 2009. In it the focus is given on the new fields, agreements and the like.
- ❖ David Chou- "US Policy Towards South Asia in Post Cold war Era" (2003). In it the policy of United States was discussed.

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