



PRESIDENT BUSH AND INDO-U.S. RELATIONSHIP

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Abstract

In the past, Indo-US relations were overshadowed by Cold War politics. The Indo- Soviet friendship and the U.S.- Pak Alliance were the two major irritants, though “AID RELATIONS” Prevailed during 1950s and 1960s. New Delhi and Washington saw each other on opposite sides of the fence during this period. However, Presidents Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson were in favour of maintaining good relations with India Recently declassified papers show that Kennedy was more greatly interested in India than Pakistan. The Sino-Indian dispute in 1962 brought about enhanced bilateral cooperation between the two countries. But the 1965 Indo-Pak War undid everything. Washington lost interest in the region. Though President Carter showed some interest, the Afghan war witnessed U.S. political support tilting again towards Islamabad. Reagan literally wrote off India. Later, in the mid-1980s the U.S. strategy was to wean India away from the Soviet Union. Dramatic turn occurred in the 1990s the Cold war was terminated with the disintegration of the Soviet Union and U.S. - Pak relations nosedived because of the latter’s clandestine nuclear programme.

Keywords: President Bush, Indo.

INTRODUCTION

Bush assumed the office of the U.S. President in January 2001. From there a new Era of Indo-U.S. relationship began. Bush identified India as an important actor in the Globe and a pre-eminent power in south Asia. The changing contours of strategic and economic interests and priorities have brought both the nations closer in the current international and regional environments.

Before coming to power, Bush had made clear about all the doubts on Indo-U.S. relationship. For instance during the foreign policy speech made on November 19 1999, during his election campaign he said : “ Often overlooked in our strategic calculations is that great land that rests at the south of Eurassia this coming century will see democratic India’s arrival as a force in the world. A vast population, before long the world’s most populous nation. A changing economy, in which 3 of its 5 wealthiest citizens are software entrepreneurs. India is now debating its future and strategic path, And the United States must pay it more attention. We should establish more trade and investment with India as it opens to the world and we should work with the Indian government, ensuring it is a force for stability and security in Asia.

This should not undermine our longstanding relationship with Pakistan, which remains crucial to the peace of the region.

Similarly in the RNC (Republican National Committee) election platform of George Bush on India it was stated that , “India is emerging as one of the greatest democracies of the twenty first century. Soon it will be the world’s most populous state. India is now redefining its identity and future strategy. The United States should engage India, respecting its great multicultural achievements and encouraging India’s choices for a more open world” India’s prominent in South Asia as well as in the World arena was thus taken into serious consideration by the Bush administration.

During the Bush regime trade relations between India and US achieved new heights. As per U.S. trade data released by the US Department of Commerce Worldwide merchandise exports to USA grew during 2002 by +1.98%. Out of the top 25 exporting countries to USA, growth rates for 14 were positive and the remaining Countries showed negative trend. Merchandise exports from India to USA grew by +21.4% in 2002 compared to 2001, rising from \$9.74 billion to \$11.82 billion. This superb performance reflects the highest annual percentage growth in Indian exports to USA over the past decade. This performance in trade becomes much more significant when we consider the trade of other countries of the world with USA which was, declining in trend. The good news in terms of U.S. India trade relations is that India has emerged as the 19th largest merchandise exporter to USA in 2002 (up from 22nd position in 2001) 2002 marks the first year that India has entered the list of top 20 countries exporting to USA.

USA has emerged as the largest trading and investment partner of India during the Bush Presidency, US exports to India for 2000 are \$3.7 billion while U.S. Imports from India for the same period totaled close to \$ 11 billion. It is very important to state that computer software exports itself accounted for another US \$4 billion. After the visit made by Robert Zoellick, U.S Trade representative under the Bush Administration, India is taking proactive steps to reduce tariff and take other necessary measures so as to attract more potential investors into its lucrative market; U.S. Administration in particular, appreciated very much the passing of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill by the Indian Parliament which will open India’s insurance industry to foreign private insurers. One more important aspect which must be mentioned here is the President Bush’s proclamation issued on September 22, 2001, the status quo ante as of A May 1998 was restored and all economic sanctions imposed pursuant to Glenn Amendment were lifted. This this stepof Bush Administration (lifting of economic sanctions) was like an icing on the cake for the ongoing trade relations between US and India. The discussion of relationship between India and US during Bush Administration will not be completed without throwing light on the Defence and military cooperation between the both countries. Both India and the US have embarked upon a sustained defence cooperation. In February 2001, the US Navy participated in the intonational fleet review sponsored by the Indian Navy off the coast from Mumbai in the Arabian Sea. It was the first occasion for US Navy to take part in military exercise in Indian territorial waters after 1963 Indo US joint military exercise took place in Agra India in May 2002 with air para troopers from both countries. Again in Alasks, USA, under sub zero temperature, US army 1st Batallion 501st Para Infantry Regiment India’s 50(i) Para Brigade took part in joint training exercise in September 2002 as well with an aim to boost cooperation security and sterility US and Indian military delegations took part in the June 2003 multinational Ballistic Missile Defence conference held in KOYO Japan. It is expected that the newly created Indo-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) will be fully operational for enhancing the level of military cooperation between the two countries for the foreseeable future with the

approval to sell Phalcon radar that was long pending between India and Israeli subject to US approval a new sense of Pragmatic realism has dawned upon both Indian and the United states to Cement their strategic ties which have been on the upswing since 2000 Washington is also believed to be giving the nod to the proposed sale of Israeli's Arrow anti missile system as well as India as its own PAC-3 system to India (Patriot Advanced Capability-3).

In the global arena also the the India US partnership during the Bush President-ship is very significant. India's vital contribution in the post war reconstruction of Afghanistan can be viewed in this respect only. India's strategic interest in enhancing the security environment inside Afghanistan including the building of the Afghan National Army through intensive training was applauded by the Bush administration thus synchronising the security objectives of the worlds largest and the oldest democracies. India's offer to be a part of the UN efforts in the rebuilding of post War Iraq and its infrastructure has received favourable attention by the US British Occupation forces .

It is a matter of appreciation that the both countries US and India are coming close to each other. The policy of accommodation and mutual appreciation of views on both sides will take the relationship between the two countries to new heights. If engaging India is the new focus in Washington this apparent paradigm shift in Indo US relationship is likely to usher in more far reaching changes with both nations continuing their rendezvous while keeping their national interest intact. India being the country of multi religious multi racial multi cast hence will certainly help the world with its diverse cultural aspects Both the countries India and US are coming closer in many field and it can be rightly predicted that the both countries will wark together in future to make the world heaven far the mankind.

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