

India-China Strategic Relations with European Union

Abstract

This paper focuses on comparative approach of EU's strategic partnership with India and China. In this regard, the paper is divided in four sections which include Strategy and Strategic Partnership, role of Strategic Partnership in EU Foreign Policy, EU-India Strategic Partnership, EU-China Strategic Partnership, and a Comparative approach in EU-India and EU-China Strategic Partnership. The paper highlighted similarities and dissimilarities in the EU's strategic partnership with India and China. It is observed that the economic factor is still dominant in both India and China's Strategic Partnership with EU.

Keywords: Strategy, Partnership, Foreign Policy, European Union, India, China.

Introduction

The term Strategy is mainly used in the sense of winning in military warfare and has been defined "as the science and art of planning victory in a war"(Man Singh, 2006).According to LalitMan Singh, in international affairs, it is used as a global, long term and comprehensive relationship between two countries (Man Singh, 2006).In common parlance a partnership is a mutually and voluntarily agreed collaborative arrangement between two or more parties in which all actors involved agree to work together for attaining desired common objectives. A strategic partner is a person or group involved in a long-term commitment between two or more parties as the case may be for the purpose of attaining common specific goals (Kokemuller).

Strategic Partnership is a "convergence of beliefs and a shared vision of the future of the world"(Nath, 2006:1).It is defined as a long-term commitment by two important actors to establish a close relationship across a significant number of policy areas(Korea Herald, 2012).Changing nature of strategic partnership from business to International Relations has grown in an evolutionary manner since the term strategic partnership originated from organizational theory and business management discipline and is gradually gaining importance and is often applied to international relations and diplomatic negotiating behaviour of the State system. Therefore, it is evident that strategic partnerships represent a system of diplomatic engagement that help maintain friendly relations between states and organizing those relationships in a framework that contributes to further mutual beneficial ties. Hence, these i.e. strategic partnerships have to be approached in that context (Chaudhuri, 2009).After this strictly speaking academic conceptual framework of strategic partnership it is pertinent to discuss the contextual interpretation of it.

Review of Literature

Sven Biscop, (2005); In his book "The European Security Agenda" deals with the issues that European Union will face in the light of New World Order dominated by China and India. He offers numerous scenarios that World will face in the changing global order and implications for European Security.

SapoutiBaroowa, (2007);In his book "The Emerging Strategic Partnership between and the European Union emphasizes the crucial areas where both can enter into trade with mutual benefits.

Thomas Renard, (2011);In his publication "The Treachery of strategies, a call for the true EU Strategic partnership, emphasizes the changing dynamics, of the world order and challenges for the European Union.

Avtar Singh Bhasin, (2009); In his online publication "India's foreign relation", emphasizes the need for strengthening relations between India and EU.



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Objectives of the Study

The paper explores the relative advantages of the China and India who are key competitors for the future world order pertaining to areas such as trade, security and future technology that may play key role in global security. The implication of the same are analyzed Thread bare and their impacts are assessed.

Role of Strategic Partnership in EU Foreign Policy

The EU's strategic partnerships are a central component in its external relations (Fröhlich, 2008:199). These partnerships are EU's instrument to engage with key partners. The term 'common strategies' was used in the Amsterdam Treaty in 1990s in alternative to the term 'common positions' and 'joint actions' which had been the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) instruments in the Maastricht Treaty (Laursen, 2011). In 1998, the term strategic partnership was put in the EU's foreign policy and it was Russia, which was given importance as EU's first strategic partner and later in 1999 with Latin America and the Caribbean countries (Presidency Conclusions, 1999).

The EU made its first effort to define the term strategic partnership in its security strategy document, "A Secure Europe in a Better World: European Security Strategy" (ESS) at the European Council in 2003. The EU identified six key actors Russia, China, the United States, Japan, Canada and India (Council of the European Union, 2010). Now, the EU has strategic partnerships with nine countries: Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa and the United States. These nine strategic partnerships are neither equal and nor identical. It has argued that not all strategic partners are equal in EU eyes, e.g. more visits to China than India, more summits with Russia than anyone else. The EU doesn't have any official definition of strategic partnership. As the then President of EU Council Herman Van Rompuy explained, "We have strategic partners, now we need a strategy" (Rompuy, 2010).

The EU officials discussed and addressed the definitional aspects of the strategic partnership on different occasions. Herman Van Rompuy in a foreign policy speech in February 2010 described strategic partnerships as a key priority of the EU's foreign policy (Renard, 2011) saying "We need to review and strengthen our relationship with key partners" (Rompuy, 2010). In addition, Catherine Ashton also explained strategic partnerships during her visit to China on the occasion of the Strategic Dialogue in September 2010 as one of her main priorities for 2010 and beyond saying: "In this world I have described where problems are global, and where power is shifting, we need to invest in partnerships, keeping up the work with our "established partnerships" such as the US, Russia, Japan and Canada, and focusing too on developing our relationships with powers that are emerging or have emerged, China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia" (Ashton, 2001:7). The strategic partnership matter was intensely discussed during the European Foreign Ministers Meeting at Paris d'Egmont, in Brussels on 10-11 September 2010 and again at the meeting of the Heads of State and

governments at Herman Van Rompuy's initiative in September 2010 while discussing strategic partnerships in particular those with China and India (Renard, 2010: 4). Moreover, while delivering a State of the Union speech on 7 September 2010 Jose Manuel Barroso officially emphasized the importance of the emerging strategic partnerships in the 21st century and stated that strategic partnerships are crucial for the EU and cautioned that "our partners are watching and are expecting us to enhance as Europe, not just as 27 individual countries. If we don't act together, Europe will not be a force in the world, and [our strategic partners] will move on without us" (Barroso, 2010:8). He pointed out that the emergent fact that strategic partnerships have crucial importance for the EU domestically: "In our globalised world, the relationships we build with strategic partners determine our prosperity" (Barroso, 2010:8). Sven Biscop argued that to increase its global influence and to integrate these countries into the multilateral international structures are the main purposes of EU entering into strategic partnerships with these countries (Biscop, 2005). Thomas Renard highlighted the origin of the strategic partnership as common strategies of the third countries and regions which were foreseen by a provision in the Amsterdam Treaty. He also pointed that the term common strategies have been lost in EU history, and the strategic partnerships have survived (Renard, 2010).

EU-India Strategic Partnership

The relationship between India and Europe is very old. It started much before India became a colony of the British Empire. After independence, the relationship changed as India also tried to diversify its relations with European powers other than the UK. Similarly, during the cold war when India became closer to the former Soviet Union and socialist Eastern Europe, it had its impact on India's relations with the Western Europe. Still, India was among the first countries to establish relations with the EEC. End of the cold war created many opportunities for both India and the EU to further improve their relations. Moving further towards EU-India relations, a commercial cooperation agreement was signed by the EEC in 1973, and in 1994 the EU and India concluded a broader cooperation agreement which also instituted a regular political dialogue (Muenchow-Pohl, 2012).

The EU and India decided to strengthen their bilateral relations further with the establishing of their annual summit level meeting in June 2000 in Lisbon. It was as a result of a gradual process of improvement in EU-India relations since the mid-1990s, and through these annual summits, the EU recognized India as a truly emergent global player, commanding the same status as other major EU partners. The summit level meetings and discussions act as a road map consisting of all aspects of their relationship including trade, economic, social, political and strategic interests. Therefore it was decided to hold regular summit level meetings every year alternately in India and the EU member state that holds the EU Presidency. There have been twelve such summit-level interactions since then. All summits organised

and held to deliberate and interact on mutually agreed bilateral relations. These annual summits have provided a regular opportunity for both sides to exchange views at the highest levels. In these annual summits, both sides discussed bilateral issues as well as regional and global concerns. The summit agreed on a revised JAP for extending the strategic partnership's new areas; a joint programme on energy, clean development and climate change; horizontal civil aviation agreement; the launch of a European Business and technology Centre in India. It was the first EU-India annual summit in 2000 where the idea of the strategic partnership developed when the both sides in their Joint Summit Declaration declared that EU and India should build a new strategic partnership founded on shared values and aspirations characterized by enhanced and multi-faceted cooperation (Lucarell). At the first summit both agreed to enhance further their trade and cooperation. The 11th EU Joint Commission encouraged industry to launch the Joint Initiative to Enhance Trade and Investment. The European Commission's Communication on An EU-India Strategic Partnership of June 2004 was another development towards EU-India strategic partnership. The fifth EU-India annual summit which was held in Hague endorsed the proposal to upgrade the bilateral relationship to the level of Strategic Partnership in 2004.

At the sixth EU-India annual summit, a comprehensive and ambitious Joint Action Plan (JAP) to implement the Strategic Partnership was established. Under the framework of political dialogue and cooperation, India and the EU sought to promote effective multilateralism, work together in UN peacekeeping, and cooperate in post-conflict political and economic assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction (Baroowa, 2007). EU-India Joint Action Plan was revised in 2008.

The major developments in EU-India strategic partnership are developing cooperation in the Security Field, EU-India Declaration on International Terrorism and on-going Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement. Implementation of Joint work programme on climate change adopted at the summit in 2008. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Country Strategy Paper for 2007-2013 was welcomed by two sides, with a total budget of Euro 260 million would support India's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to implement the India-EU JAP. A Memorandum of Understanding on the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2011-2013 was signed between the EU and India in February 2011 (European Union External Action). for which an indicative envelope of Euro 210 million will be made available, aimed at strengthening the social sectors, in particular education and health, as well as the continuation of activities identified under the EU-India Joint Action Programme (Bhasin, 2009). The major issues emerged in the EU-India strategic partnership are Economic and Trade, Climate Change and Environment, Energy, Galileo and ITER, Science and Technology, International Terrorism, Civil Aviation and Maritime Transport, Democracy, Human Rights and

Multilateralism, Socio-Cultural and Education, Interaction between Parliamentarians, the EU-India Civil Society Exchanges and Regional issues.

The EU-China Strategic Partnership

In examining the development of EU-China relations and the establishment of a strategic partnership, it is pointed out that both the international political environment and domestic developments on each side have played an important role in bringing the two closer in the post-Cold War period (Men, 2007).

In the beginning, China adopted the strategic partnership to regulate relations with great powers i.e. in 1990s, China's strategic partnerships with Brazil, Russia and the USA. The concept of strategic partnership emerged in the Chinese diplomacy after the end of cold war and its first strategic partner was Brazil in 1993 followed by Russia in 1996, South Korea in 1998 and India in 2005. Gradually, the strategic partnership became one of the most notable dimensions of Chinese diplomacy. In the 21st century, China has expanded its scope of the strategic partnership further with many European Countries became China's strategic partners. It has observed that these strategic partnerships which China has concluded reflect the changing requirements of sustaining China's growth and its evolving global role. The EU and China established their mechanisms to strengthen their relations and established their annual summits in late 1990s. There are sixteen EU-China annual summits have taken place so far.

The EU and China established diplomatic relations on 6 May 1975. The relationship initially developed in the framework of economic cooperation. In 1985, EU and China adopted agreement on trade and economic cooperation. Three Pillars of EU-China relationship were established: the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in 2009, the High Level Strategic Dialogue in 2010 and the EU-China High Level People to People Dialogue established in 2012. The EU-China Strategic Partnership was launched in 2003 and upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2013. Over the last four years, around a dozen dialogues and cooperation mechanisms were established or re-activated, covering issues such as foreign policy, security and defence, cyber, high tech, innovation, migration and mobility, tourism, energy, environment, development, disaster risk management, people-to-people exchanges. Today, the EU and China have over 60 high level and senior dialogues, working groups and steering committees reflecting the wide-ranging scope of their exchanges. In 2003, three new EU-China dialogues were launched: on innovation, international development and sustainable tourism. The EU-China 2020 Agenda for Cooperation adopted at the 16th EU-China Summit in November 2013 constitutes the framework for EU-China strategic to a new level: peace, prosperity, sustainable development and people-to-people exchanges. The major issues emerged in the EU-China strategic partnerships are one China Principle and Taiwan, the Arms Embargo, China's human rights record, political reform process, the EU's refusal to grant China market economy status and the United

States' influential role in the EU's external decision-making process, EU-China Trade, Illegal Migration and Human Trafficking, Climate Change, ITER, Effective Multilateralism, Terrorism, issues of Readmission and Visa Facilitation, Sustainable Development, Energy Security, European Integration, Geographical Indication, Research and Innovation Cooperation, Space Technology and Urbanisation Issues.

A Comparative approach in the EU-India and EU-China Strategic Partnerships

The EU's strategic partnerships with India and China have some similarities and dissimilarities. In similarities, from the historical perspective trade was the backbone of the Europe's political contact with the civilisation of India and China. It was Dutch merchants, opened up trade activities with the Indian coastal states and then further moved towards China. Textiles, ivory and wooden furniture items the European merchants brought from India and the blue and white porcelain from the Middle Kingdom (China). For both China and India, Europe remains a vital source of trade, advanced technology and foreign direct investment. Both realize that Europe will be an indispensable partners in the future as well because it still has enormous capacity to influence the world economy and world politics. Both China and India established their strategic partnerships with the EU in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Both having strong mechanisms to implement their strategic partnerships i.e., annual summits. The United States is the common factor which influenced their strategic partnership with the EU.

On the other hand, regarding dissimilarities in their strategic partnerships, India has a long historical colonial legacy of the Europeans in India but China didn't have. China is the permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and India is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council. India has established a Joint Action Plan to implement its strategic partnership with EU but China doesn't have JAP but it has 2020 Agenda for Cooperation. EU-China and EU-India differ in their issues emerged in their annual summits and strategic partnerships. It has argued that rise of China and India represents both challenges and opportunities for Europe. Many European see the China as a direct immediate threat to European jobs in some manufacturing sectors and on the other hand India is seen as a latent and potential threat taking away service-sector jobs. It has been observed that despite the increasing of the European Union's dialogue with both China and India, both of them engaged their bilateral relations with individual member states, especially Germany, the United Kingdom and France. Chris Patten rightly said that there is no European policy on a big issue unless France, Germany and Britain are on side. Unless they work together, nothing else will work. It is as clear and simple as that...Without the 'big three', there is no policy.

Conclusion

The paper started with a discussion of the concept of strategic partnership, which has been applied by the EU to certain relationships with third countries since the late 1990s. The EU doesn't have

any official definition of strategic partnership but it is still through various documents the EU has tried to define the meaning of strategic partnership. The term is still in need of clarification. In examining the development of EU-China and EU-India relations and the establishment of a strategic partnership, its points out that both the international political environment and domestic developments on each side have played an important role in bringing the two closer in the post-Cold War period. After the analysing of the EU's comparative approach of the EU-India and the EU-China strategic partnerships, the important point is still there and that is the future and relevance of these strategic partnerships. However, the future success of their strategic partnership depends on how much India and China can invest strategically in this partnership in terms of playing active and assertive economic and security roles in regions in which the European Union, India and China have vital strategic and security interests. It has observed that India, China and the European Union strategic partnerships have so far made relatively little impact beyond the existing linkages.

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