Kautila, the respected Indian diplomacy and statecraft guru had once said – “Friends and Enemies are born out of circumstances”. This observation is an apt description of the Indo-US friendship in the 21st century. The power game over the last two decades has shifted from the West to the East and more specifically to Asia represented by its huge population, cheap labour and growing markets. India and the United States have reasons to be concerned with China. On the other hand, increasing Chinese influence in Pakistan is complicating US plans to draw down troops from neighbouring Afghanistan by 2014. India and the United States have a wonderful opportunity to align their visions in Afghanistan so that China and Pakistan’s influence is negated. This will be part of the larger American plan to align with India in an effort to contain China’s global ambitions.
China is a threat to US global ambitions. Alternatively, India, with its large market, huge population, huge human resource base, and an English-speaking workforce, has more commonalities with the United States.

Ironically, after gaining steady momentum over the last decade, bilateral relations between India and the US have been left unsatisfied with economic barriers for gaining access to strategic areas such as education, science and technology, defence, security and counter-terrorism, trade and women empowerment.

China and India have two great power economies that are constantly growing in power. The two nations face a geopolitical situation, with China emerging as a major power in Asia and India seeking to expand its influence in the region.

The US and India have a long history of strategic cooperation, including defence, trade, and technology. However, there are also significant differences between the two countries, including differences in their political systems and approaches to global issues.

Despite these differences, the US and India have recognized the need to strengthen their partnership in order to address common challenges. This has led to efforts to improve economic and strategic cooperation, including talks on a civil nuclear agreement, defence trade, and cooperation in other areas.

However, there are also significant differences between the two countries, including differences in their political systems and approaches to global issues. These differences can sometimes lead to tensions and disagreements, particularly in the area of defence and security.

The US and India are also facing common challenges, including the need to address climate change, terrorism, and other global threats. This has led to efforts to strengthen their partnership in order to address these challenges.

In conclusion, the US and India have a complex and evolving relationship. While they share important interests and have a history of cooperation, they also face significant challenges and differences. It will be important for both countries to continue to work together to find ways to address these challenges and build a strong and enduring partnership.

Source: The Global Times, 15 October 2011
areas such as global supply chain management, mega-city policing, combating counterfeit currency and illicit financing, cyber security, critical infrastructure protection, capacity building and technology upgrading. They have also resolved to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, including through intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment. Indian and US officials have undertaken joint manoeuvres on counter-terrorism as a part of their joint military exercises.

However, although increased cooperation in defence over the last decade has provided the fillip to push the relationship to its current level, it has not culminated in enhanced counter-terrorism cooperation. The complex nature of US relations with Pakistan has always cast a shadow on how much of these discussions have translated into actions in the past. However, the second round of the Strategic dialogue in July 2011 seems to have turned a new page. Both sides while condemning terrorism in all its forms, reiterated that all terrorist networks must be defeated and significantly agreed that Pakistan should move expeditiously in prosecuting those involved in the November 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

Energy

The recent guidelines adopted by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, in June 2011, banning the sale of enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) technology to NPT non-signatories, in an effort to strengthen nuclear export controls, has raised considerable concern in India. Significantly, the United States has assured India that the NSG guidelines of June 2011 will not affect nuclear commerce with India. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Clinton said that the dialogue in July 2011 has also signified implementing a Agreement on Discovery Science that provides the framework for cooperation in accelerator and particle detector research and development at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility and Brookhaven National Laboratory. If both countries are sincere in their efforts to strengthen relations, they will back their actions by fulfilling their promises. If that happens, then it will open immense opportunities in cooperation in the field of energy security.

Public diplomacy

There has been a tremendous growth in people to people contacts over the last decade. Indians have received almost half of all H1B visas issued worldwide and more than 44 per cent of all L1 intra-company transfer visas in the past four years. About 6,50,000 Indians travelled to the United States in 2010, an increase of 18 per cent from 2009. Over 1,00,000 Indian students travelled to the United States in 2010, a growth of 18 per cent from 2009. Mr Rasmussen said that the dialogue in July 2011 has also signified implementing a Agreement on Discovery Science that provides the framework for cooperation in accelerator and particle detector research and development at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility and Brookhaven National Laboratory. If both countries are sincere in their efforts to strengthen relations, they will back their actions by fulfilling their promises. If that happens, then it will open immense opportunities in cooperation in the field of energy security.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Indo-US partnership will be one of the defining associations of the 21st century. However, the relationship continues to be bogged down by key issues that dampen the growing momentum in bilateral relations. Both countries will have to adopt a holistic approach where they continue to create institutional mechanisms in areas of convergences to establish long term goals on the one hand while exploring options to constantly communicate on areas of divergences on the other. They will have to take concrete steps at both levels to consistently retain in order to sustain this relationship. The areas identified above provide varied options for American and Indian students to study in India. It is getting increasingly evident that the Indo-US partnership will be one of the defining associations of the 21st century. However, the relationship continues to be bogged down by key issues that dampen the growing momentum in bilateral relations. Both countries will have to adopt a holistic approach where they continue to create institutional mechanisms in areas of convergences to establish long term goals on the one hand while exploring options to constantly communicate on areas of divergences on the other.

The solution for progress of Alliance is the development of closer relations with countries across the globe, specially with all major global players including India and China.

Mr Rasmussen told “Against such threats, the approaches of a bygone era simply no longer work. Static, heavy metal armies are not going to impress terrorists, pirates or computer hackers” and added “Our success in preserving our shared security, including through NATO, increasingly depends on how well we cooperate with others.”