

ABSTRACT

The Government of India is aware in strengthening its defense capabilities in order to support the attainment of their national goals and interests in the increased global competition amongst Countries. In the field, India is well- known as a traditional partner for Russia mainly in the post World War II. India has procured many military equipment from the Soviet era and also conducted many military cooperation both in tactical and technical even until recently. Otherwise, India's relations with another Superpower, the United States was relatively not close due to its adherence to non- alignment movement and the former Soviet Union when the Cold War happened between the two Giants. The US also identified as major ally for India's main rival Pakistan and has supported them with their armaments or gave financial and political support too. But, a recovery in the Indo- US relationship occurred in 2008 since both Countries agreed on Non Proliferation Enhancement Acts, then followed by series of dialogues and consultations by the top leaders from both Countries. Until eventually, both Countries decided to sign the Defense Framework Agreement in 2015. This Agreement is contained some substantial points for the continuation of their defense ties into the next level. Through this Agreement, India and the US can together balance the rapid influence of China as world rising Superpower mainly in the Asia- Pacific Region. And especially for India, strategically can strengthen their position in front of Pakistan as their main rival in the South Asia Region.

Keywords: India, US, China, Pakistan, Balance of Power, Defense Agreement, Defense Industry, Arms Trade, Military Exercise, Regional Stability

Background

India exceeded China as the world's largest importer of weapons systems in the years of 2006 until 2010, reflecting the State's purposes of modernizing its military and project military competencies to past the subcontinent. Therefore, India's Ministry of Defense (MOD) plans to spend about US\$80 billion on military modernization programs until 2015, which some analysts expect will maintain India heading in the direction to be one of the biggest defense importers in the following decade. Over the years of 2001 - 2010, the spending on defense budget has remained between 2.3% and 3.0% of India's GDP. Throughout the same time, the MOD shifted approximately 5% of its aggregate expenditure for the military in preferring to the State's Air Force and Navy. The MOD's department of defense research & development, consist of nearly fifty research labs, has remained constant at approximately 6% of the MOD's budget (Lombardo, 2011).

Within the area of defense cooperation, India has an extensive relationship with Russia. The positive relations showed by the status of India as the second biggest arms importer of Russia's weapons. Refer to the data in 2003 until 2013, the exports value of Russian defense industry was \$21 billion or can be estimated 31 percent of their total exports, and 75 percent of imports value for India as a whole. It is an incredible fact that no other countries import more than 5 percent to Russia weapons at a similar period. They also built an institutionalized politico-military-technology structure with the task to monitor all possible troubles in their military-technical cooperation (Backes, 2013).

On the other sides, there are tensions and dynamics to some extent, in the bilateral relations between India and the US in the period after World War (WW) II and the Cold War. The actions of the US to implement arms embargo towards India (and also Pakistan) during the first Indian-Pakistani (Indo-Pak) war on Kashmir in 1948 had dissatisfied them. The relations had also worsened since India's actions to refuse for signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation agreement (NPT) at 1968. In the next 40 years, the distinction over the nuclear policy is the primary obstruction in U.S. – India relations. It had turned into worsened momentum when India's action to take a nuclear test at Pokhran in 1974. Also, India firmly opposed the US-backed permanent extension of the NPT in 1995 (Pedro, 2016).

The India Abroad newspaper featured that the “strong and growing” Defense Partnership is a “centerpiece” for the whole bilateral relationship between India and US. Later on, some further steps have been taken by both Countries to deepen their defense relationship. The significant increasing trends of purchasing US military equipment has been made by India from zero in 2008 to around \$9 billion in 2013 with plenty more forecasted in the years after. In the next ten years, India willing to advance their military hardware from the Soviet era with the estimated cost of \$100 billion. A series of dialogue between The US Defense Secretary, Ashton Carter and the senior Indian officials in July 2012, with the purpose to enter towards the further steps in their defense ties, move away from only a buyer-seller ties into a broader recognition in mutual understanding of U.S.–India security ties (Inderfurth, 2013). Then, in June 2013, India has notified the latest Defense Procurement procedure that specializes in promoting indigenization and creating a level playing field for the Indian Defense Industry, later on, the document renewed in 2016.

A Joint Statement in April 2013 was agreed by Ashton Carter and Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar, to intensify the relations of Indo- US military. The partnership of both countries will lie on the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) in order to

broaden Indo-U.S. military-industrial ties and favor Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" efforts to bolster India's indigenous defense industry. The extra points for both countries are the attempt to increase the number of joint military exercises, then to prepare the "new opportunities to deepen cooperation in maritime security and Maritime Domain Awareness; military-to-military relations; the knowledge partnership in the field of defense; and regional and international security matters of mutual interest" (Inderfurth, 2013)

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar signed a 10-year defense framework agreement On June 3, 2015, underlining the expanding of Defense Cooperation for both Countries. The agreement itself is a continuation of progress after President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in January 2015. The Agreement will bolster the DTTI with the concept that India and the US collaborate closely to develop their military capabilities. It included plans to collaborate in developing a mobile solar energy power source that might be utilized in rural areas and developing a lightweight protective suit useful in chemical and biological hazard environments (US DoDNews, 2015).

Theoretical Framework

In order to explain the signing of the Agreement by the Indian Government, it needed instruments for analyzing systematic and relevant data. In order to answer and describe the problems in this writing, it is necessary to choose suitable and proper foundation of theory and concepts.

1. Realism

Realism as one of the traditional theory in international relations has a long history and become one of the cores to the western theory and practice of international relations. Basic Realist ideas and assumptions are: (1) pessimistic view of human nature; (2) a conviction that international relations are necessarily conflictual and that international conflict is ultimately resolved by war; (3) a high regard for the values of national security and state survival; (4) an essential skepticism that there can be progress in international politics that is comparable to that in domestic political life. Whether it is past or present, most of the famous realist IR theorist, still hold towards these ideas and assumptions (Sorensen, 1999).

Realist thus operates with a core assumption that world politics unfolds in international anarchy (can be understood as a system with no overarching authority. No world government so that the main point of foreign policy is to protect and defend the

interest of the state in world politics, and international relations are understood by realist as primarily a struggle among the Great power for domination and security (Sorensen, 1999).

2. Balance of Power

One of the concepts that can support the explanations mentioned above is the Balance of Power. The concept of balance of power can be described in some terminology of the balance of power, which means each of state involved, possess power in the equilibrium situation or one of the states in this context to possess a relatively higher power compared to the other (Sorensen, 1999).

As one of the most effective techniques for managing power in the international system based on a competitive relationship among States. Morgenthau defined Balance of Power as (1) a policy aimed at a particular state of affairs; (2) an actual state of affairs; (3) an approximately equal distribution of power, and (4) any distribution of power, but the international consensus also needed in terms of the acceptance of the competing nations in the balance of power system in order to preserve the international peace (Dougherty, 1990).

One of the interpretations of the balance of power is a balance of power as equilibrium. This interpretation involved a model in the aggregation in order to explain and predict the state actions based on the systematical characteristics. The equilibrium can be seen as a relationship between the main variables on the system (such as the distribution of resources or state's position and policy), that so tight, so a changing in one variable can cause an impact towards the other variable. The equilibrium could be preserved if the variables do not change too fast and too many. These approaches assume that as long as the distribution of resources quite balances among five or more actors, their policy will be moderate, and the efforts of one actor to gain hegemony position will be prevented by the balancer power (Mas' oed, 1994).

So, in the concept of balance of power it is essential that state as an actor possesses some goals or policies that made and formulated by its Statesman. States Actors involved consider that the concept of Balance of Power will be benefited them. They sometimes made a step to jump ahead from “the actual situation happened” to “the situation that should happened” which means that the *balancing* effort should be maintained (Mas' oed, 1994). India's policy in signing the Defense Framework Agreement in 2015 with the US, show the real actions from the Indian Government to create cooperation with the US

Government. Here, Ministry of Defense of both Countries is the representation party in terms of formulation of defense and military cooperation, to meet common interest of each other in the scope of present and future. Especially for India, this Agreement could strengthen the capability of their military, and bolster Defense Industries and Arms Trade of both States.

In perception and reality, India has some multiple challenges in the field of defense and security. Firstly they have been in the intense animosity with its main rival Pakistan from the past until present. Both Countries is a Nuclear Power States and already combat in three wars and for sure consume the mind and energy from their Military Officials. The Strategic balance in South Asia Region has always been maintained through by the two States through its Nuclear Deterrence (Nuclear Weapon, Nuclear Doctrines, and Missile developments), Conventional Deterrence in Weaponry System and also Role of Major Powers such as the US, Russia (mainly the former Soviet Union) and China. All the Great Power indeed posses some interests to maintain and enlarge their influence in the entire Asia- Pacific Region.

From the neighbor in the northeast part, India see the Giant China and give serious attention towards China's robust military modernization, although the relations of both States is relatively stable. However, China in its White Paper mentioned their goals in order to expand strategic missile and space-based sources. They robustly, bolster the blue- water navy program to exercise operations in the far waters, which in here is the Indian Ocean as the “backyard” Sea of India. China also has given assistance for some Countries in which they have some issues with India in the littoral region such as Pakistan, Burma and Sri Lanka. It is one of the China's efforts to make their interest safe, mainly in the hydrocarbon energy transportation. Afterward, many Scholars in India commented that the China's help for Pakistan as part of encirclement strategy for India and bolster their influence in the South Asia Region.

EXPLANATION AND ANALYSIS

India is a potential country to gain global great-power status with possibilities becoming number fourth largest economic power by 2045 due to the stable economic rate approximately four to five percent each year. Indian Government launched some serious power projection plan such as Blue-Water Navy programs with the ambitious plan to manage the Indian Ocean. India is a nuclear-capable state with equal concern on the land, air and sea platforms and gives its efforts to strengthen the military by modernizing its weaponry systems, for instance by

buying some modern jet fighter such as Sukhoi and Rafale. India is also predicted by the United Nations (UN) turn into the most populous country in the world in 2028. Thus, it is fair to say India as the emerging global power. (O' Donnell, 2015: 199- 200)

In the time after gaining the national freedom, the Indian foreign policy commonly possessed four purposes which are: ensure territorial integrity, preserve freedom in foreign policy; gain recognition from the global powers that be and create optimal conditions for India's internal development. These purposes also matched towards the theory of concentric circles of India's grand strategy written by C. Raja Mohan (Mohan, 2006: 18):

“India's grand strategy divides the world into three concentric circles. In the first, which encompasses the immediate neighborhood, India has sought primacy and a veto over actions of outside powers. In the second, which encompass the so-called extended neighborhood across Asia and the Indian Ocean Littoral, India has sought to balance the influence of other powers and prevent them from undercutting its interests. In the third, which includes the entire global stage, India has tried to take its place across as one of the great powers, a key player in international peace and security.”

India and the US also have run some footsteps in defense cooperation. Firstly, they have been agreed on the so-called the 'Next Steps in Strategic Partnership' (NSSP) initiative, which involved wide-ranging defense partnerships in areas such as missile defense, space and nuclear (US-India Joint Statement 2004). The key statement that was showing the importance of this initiative is that they want to face future threats and challenges together, and also working through interoperability with the U.S. and other allied armed forces for joint operations in India's area of strategic interest, and dealing with the issues of Indian military modernization and ability to make force structures that are capable of undertaking network-centric warfare on land, at sea and in the air' (Joshi, 2016: 85).

Later on, the initiatives developed into the New Framework for the India-U.S. Defense Relationship signed in 2005 by the Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The agreement would give a whole structure which the United States and India have chased more particular arrangements together, including arms sales, military exercises, and other military cooperations. In the following years, they had signed other framework and created several bilateral cooperation mechanisms to support the defense relations between them. For example, in 2006, the two governments signed the Indo-U.S. Framework for Maritime Security Cooperation. In 2010, they promoted on a bilateral Counter-terrorism Cooperation Initiative (CCI). They also made the Defense Policy Group (DPG) and its subgroups, the Defense Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), the Senior

Technology Security Group (STSG), the Joint Technical Group (JTG), and the Military Cooperation Group (MCG) and its Executive Steering Groups (ESGs) in an annual meeting of senior officers of both States Armies, Navies, and Air Forces (Weitz, 2017: 4)

Then, the U.S.-India Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation was made in September 2013, asserting that both officials will conduct mutual support for fundamental principles of enhanced military collaboration. The United States launched the rebalance strategy under President Obama, in which the focusing will be directed more to Asia. As the first US President that visited India two times, first in November 2010, then he was called the "chief guest" on his second visit at India's Republic Day ceremony on January 26th, 2015. Also, finally, both governments agreed to renew the previous Framework Agreement in 2005 and create some modification in its terms in order to meet the new security environment challenges. The signing of the 2015 U.S.-India Defense Framework Agreement which continues until 2025, facilitate more assistance for military-to-military engagement, maritime cooperation, and defense-academic partnerships (Weitz, 2017: 4). The Document was signed of Defense Framework Agreement by US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar in New Delhi 3rd of June 2015. Some key points of interest were stated in the defense relationship that came from a common belief in freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, and seeks to advance shared security interests from both country, these include (Defense Framework Agreement, 2015):

In the flourishing of Defense cooperation between India and the US, at the same time China upgrading its status as a new emerging power in Asia- Pacific region, the suggestion that China rising power possibly lead to instability and insecurity over the Asia-Pacific current order. Besides, China also has the program to modernize it is armed troops, the People Liberation Army (PLA), with the purpose to develop its power in the entire Asia- Pacific region. It is undeniable that there is a massive expanding in China's economy and also the steps to tremendously increase its military power. As to implications, China prepares to free and challenge from the political and strategic subordination from the United States which has been firmly holding the pattern and understanding of the global architecture after the Cold War (Anam, 2014: 125- 126).

India's status recently is one of the significant regional and emerging global powers in both economic and military fields. By possessing military personnel of some 1.2 million persons, now face beyond the threat of conflict from across the Pakistani border, from both state and non-state actors, to rivalry with China in the Himalayan border region and in new areas such as the South China Sea, the Straits of Malacca, and the greater Indian Ocean

Region. India previously has become the liable side in Indian Ocean Region with the competence to put its troops in the littoral states and safeguard trade roads and offshore resources in there (Nawaz, 2014: 2).

India and the US have highlighted the strategic significance of their defense relations and also the expanding strategic convergence between the US “Rebalance” and India’s “Look East-Act East” policy, in purposes to reach intensive role of India in Asia that is at the core of the historical transformation of the world today (Bana, 2016: 3). The clear statement from the former Prime Minister P.V. Rao, in 1991 has initiated the “Look East” Policy, with the significant point which is “a strategic shift in India’s vision of the world and India’s place in the evolving global economy.” it is indicating how substantial and necessary that India broadens his "eyes" to the Eastern part of Asia (Ladwig, 2010: 112).

On the other hand, Beijing considered the step of Washington in it is the policy of "pivot" as an American effort to restrain Chinese influence across the region and encouraging Countries bravely in contesting China when maritime disputes occurred. The term "rebalance," also related to the strategy designation to move 60 percent of the US' naval assets up from 50 percent to the Asia-Pacific region by 2020. China's aim and intention for increasing their profile in the region due to the need of their energy-demand export-driven economy that is so dependent on raw material and fuel imports. So they will try to maintain it is sustainable position over the regional Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) and it is significant for the stability and preservation of the whole Asia-Pacific community (Bana, 2016: 2).

On the other hand, China and India possess some several interests in the India Ocean Region. For instance, in the energy sector, Beijing and New Delhi are continuously depended upon hydrocarbon resources. China footsteps are one step forward to win the rivalry related to oil assets in some States such as Kazakhstan, Ecuador, Nigeria and so on. A single obstacle that inhibiting China is that they need to go through India’s “backyard” to save the transportation of their resources abroad for example oil from East Africa and the Persian Gulf to arrive in China. China has assisted some Countries in the littoral region such as Pakistan, Burma and Sri Lanka in which they have some problematic intercourse with India is one of the China's efforts to make their interest safe. Afterward, many Indian Scholars argued that the China’s favor for Pakistan and also its encroachment into the Indian Ocean is part of encirclement strategy to India and bolster their influence in the South Asia region (Ladwig, 2010: 115)

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The Geo-political importance of Indian Ocean potential to steadily increase since it is littoral areas contains more than two-thirds of the global oil deposits, and 35 percent of the global gas deposits, 60 percent of uranium, 40 percent of gold and 80 percent of all diamond reserves. These tremendous facts indeed attract many Countries, for example, the oil imports percentage in the Indian Ocean Region sea- traffic is Japan with almost 90 percent, Italy 85 percent, Britain and Germany 60 percent and France almost 50 percent. The other things that made the Indian Ocean is so significant are dealing with the economic activity of raw materials. These include lithium, beryllium, zirconium, thorium, coal, iron, copper, manganese, tin, bauxite, chromite, nickel, cobalt, vanadium and phosphates (Michel, 2012).

The actual efforts from India to maintaining security and stability in both the Indian and Pacific Ocean Region is by conducting some training and joint operations with the US annually. In 2018, the Indian Navy together with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF), and the U.S. Navy held Malabar naval war games in waters off Guam. It was the 22nd edition of annual naval training that happened from June 7th to 16th, in the island of Western Pacific and will be arranged in two stages which are firstly at the harbor that took place at Naval Base Guam from June 7th to 10th, and then at sea area from June 11th to 16th. Similar with 2017, India again rejected the Australia willingness to join in the 2018 recurrence of the training. In the previous occasions, they mostly held in the Indian Ocean region, involving the Bay of Bengal (Gady, 2018).

Over the years, the exercise has expanded regarding the scope and various difficulties. The exercise will take place both ashore and at-sea training off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea, as the U.S. Navy said in a statement that (Gady, 2018) :

“Training will focus on high-end warfighting skillsets, subject matter expert and professional exchanges, combined carrier strike group operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, surface and anti-submarine warfare, medical operations, damage control, helicopter operations and visit, board, search and seizure (...) operations.”

So, Malabar Exercise is undoubtedly an essential effort for both Countries to maintain regional security and stability in the Asia Pacific region. For the US, it has become the evidence that they have never been genuinely absent from Asia- Pacific region mainly in Southeast Asia region, the ongoing commitment to it is regional allies, and feature extensive maritime military presence. The perception that the US influence in regional affairs has been diminishing since China's emerging cannot be easily ignored (Anwar, 2013). For India, they can increase the capabilities of their military by consistently working and learning together with the US as one of strongest military on earth.

On the sector of Defense Industry, India considered self-reliance as a very important corner-stone in which the military capacity of any nations must lie. There is also enormous potential to affect the human resources and engineering capability of the nation itself for reaching self-reliance in design, development and producing in the field of defense. It is consequently the utmost significance that in the concept of “Make in India” stays as the focal point of the defense acquisition policy/procedure. There is a requirement to institute approving provisions for utilization and consolidation of design, and manufacturing infrastructure existed in the country. That requirement has also been necessary for recognizing strategic counterparts for bolstering defense manufacturing in the private sector (Ministry of Defence, 2016: xi).

Many global defense corporates decided to expand their investments in India. There have occurred many joint-venture proclamations in the field in the previous two years. Such big A&D companies, for example, Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Safran already possessed a footmark in Indian trading, with further investments planning in the future. For example, Airbus declared a joint-venture with Mahindra Defence Systems to produce helicopters for the Indian military in 2017. Boeing also has gotten into a joint venture with Tata Advanced Systems in December 2015, where they plan to produce fuselages of *Apache* Helicopters in India (Nisith Desai Associates, 2018 :3).

The path of India to become gain self reliance in their defense industry is not easy since the dependency of India to procure their armaments from abroad is high as shown in Table 1. Historically, the pattern of arms imports in South Asia is influenced mostly by the everlasting rivalry between India and Pakistan. In the list below, both states were stood in the top ten of arms importers in 2013–17. India was the biggest importer of major arms in 2013–17 and calculated for 12 percent of the whole, globally. The imports quantity raised by 24 percent between 2008–12 and 2013–17. Russia calculated as 62 percent of India's arms imports in 2013–17, and the total amount of Russian arms exports to India at that moment was almost similar as in 2008–12. India is trying to find to enlarge the variations in the supplier of its arms imports. In 2008–12 and 2013–17 arms imports from the USA increased by 557 percent, establishing the US position as a second largest arms supplier for India. This expanding is the piece of the flourishing strategic partnership between the two countries in which the USA has started to provide India with sophisticated military armaments. The provided of arms in 2013-17 from the US for instance patrol aircraft, strategic transport aircraft, and combat helicopters. The other big arms supplier for India is Israel, living up as accounted by 285 percent between 2008–12 and 2013–17, and made them as the third largest exporter to India (SIPRI, 2018: 8).

Table 1. The Main Exporter and Importer of Major Weapons, 2013-2017

THE MAIN EXPORTER AND IMPORTER OF MAJOR WEAPONS, 2013-2017					
2017					
No	Exporter	Global Share (%)	No	Importer	Global Share (%)
1.	USA	34	1.	India	12
2.	Russia	22	2.	Saudi Arabia	10
3.	France	6.7	3.	Egypt	4.5
4.	Germany	5.8	4.	UAE	4.4
5.	China	5.7	5.	China	4.0
6.	UK	4.8	6.	Australia	3.8
7.	Spain	2.9	7.	Algeria	3.7
8.	Israel	2.9	8.	Iraq	3.4
9.	Italy	2.5	9.	Pakistan	2.8
10.	Netherlands	2.1	10.	Indonesia	2.8

Source: SIPRI Factsheet, Trends in International Arms Transfer 2017

The Defense ties between India and the US also face some obstacles, on of them is the existing of tight relations between New Delhi and Moscow. The US has willingly free to show attention regarding the S-400 missile system being proposed by any of American counterparts, including India. The US Congressmen from Republican Party, Mac Thornberry, the Head of the House Armed Services gave responses when he was in India in May 2018. He

stated if New Delhi and Moscow eventually agreed on the buying of the missile system, it would create difficulties on the ability to implement 'inter-operability' between both Countries. When at the same time the US had issued sanctions against Russia, Iran, North Korea, and the related corporations indeed that US had sanctioned Russia for suspected in mingling the 2016 US Presidential Election through the so-called Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). However, for Nirmala when replying to question whether the sanction would impact India's military purchases, she said that it is not the issue for India due to its status as not the UN Law (IANS, 2018). But finally, India and Russia came into agreement that both Countries are formally have signed \$5,2 billion worth deal for S-400 System on October 2018.

In the context of rivalry between India and Pakistan, both countries are the two important actors that hold the Strategic Balance in the South Asia Region. Both States posses Nuclear Deterrence which are Nuclear Weapon, Nuclear Doctrines, and Missile developments capability and also the present of Great Powers Countries too. In the post nuclearization era, Major Country that actively involved in holding strategic stability in South Asia is the US. They also either supported Pakistan with majority of their defense armaments or by giving financial and political supports, despite Pakistan's reliance on China too. The US support to India in the last decade possibly bring some impacts on Pakistan's towards India can put Pakistan's security interests. Their shifting to India will automatically change the direction of US policy in India's preference rather than Pakistan on politics, economics and international front. So, this condition made Pakistan worried first on when they lose their main source of its military equipment and also the political assistance in the international stage vis-à-vis India (Bukhari, 2011: 17).

Narendra Modi after elected as the Indian Prime Minister decided to increase the military budget of 2015–2016 to \$39.8 billion or calculated as 11 percent of rising. Furthermore, India is one of the most significant global importers of conventional armaments, with possibly more than \$100 billion of the defense budget for military modernization for the following decade (Bedi, 2012). In result, many experts and scholars have commented that this effort is endangering the conventional deterrence of Pakistan. In response, enforce them to add the modern nuclear weapons, especially the low-yield warheads and delivery systems for the combat purposes in the battleground, categorized as tactical nuclear weapons. Other experts have commented that the India Forces still relied upon the old platforms and did not possess enough force integration that substantial to embrace transformation in military technology.

Another debatable argument that appears to others is that Pakistan has a relatively better approach in its shifting to the conventional military balance (Ladwig, 2015:730).

There is also deal of arms provided from the US in 2013-17 for patrol aircraft, strategic transport aircraft, and combat helicopters. The IAF have bought over \$10 billion worth of U.S. weapons. In 2014, India was the second largest importer of U.S. arms, accounting for more than 11 percent of all U.S. arms sales worldwide, trailing only Saudi Arabia. The largest deals have included India's acquisition of U.S.-made Apache (attack helicopters), Chinook (heavy-lift helicopters), C-130 Hercules (transport aircraft), and Boeing P-8I (long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine aircraft), including deals for 145 M777 lightweight Howitzers as well as several other weapons systems. This surge in U.S. arms sales helped boost bilateral trade in 2015 to more than \$100 billion and U.S. investment in India that year to \$35 billion (Weitz, 2017: 7).

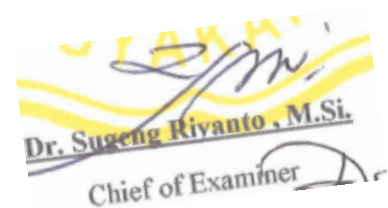
Regarding to Indo- US Nuclear cooperation impacts for the on regional stability, a Pakistani analyst Adil Sultan gave his caution that "the Indo-US civil nuclear cooperation agreement if implemented without checking India's potential to increase its fissile stocks and eliminating any possibility by India of improving its nuclear weapons could lead to arms competition in the region involving Pakistan, India and China, thus destabilizing the entire region." This is became the way for India since the Non Proliferation Enhancement Acts in 2008 to increase the vast occasions with the US in this field, and make the US stands in favor to India rather than Pakistan if both Countries engaged in some disputes. Further, the US foreign policy preferences shift to India due to some rapid defense cooperation. Pakistan change only as a tactical partner of US, while India raise as strategic partner. Adil Sultan stated again that "the deal could force major stakeholders to re-evaluate their security interests in the face of emerging Indo-US strategic partnership thus triggering transformation of regional alliance structures, where India is seen decisively shifting towards the United States and Pakistan being compelled to explore options that could best serve its security interests independent of the United States." (Bukhari, 2011: 20).

Consequently, the Security ties between India and the US create serious concern for Pakistan in terms that this possibly could worsen deterrence capabilities vis a vis India and be able to 'shake' balance of power into India advantages. Moreover, the extensive cooperation, especially in Counterterrorism, could provoke Pakistan to be closer and set to form new cooperation with China. China also needs to respond properly towards extensive collaboration between India and the US in the field of defense. In consequences, it may not be dangerous for Pakistan, but also be able to change the strategic balance in Asia which shall impact the

entire of international politics or the possibilities of a 'New Cold War' between Beijing and Washington. Rapid expanding in the awakening of India and the US relations in their comprehensive strategic partnership can alter with the security structure in South Asia in the journey and course of time (Bukhari, 2011: 2).

CONCLUSION

So, the policy of India to sign the Defense Framework Agreement in 2015 with the US is a sign for the closer bilateral relationship through the foundation of defense cooperation. Some aspects that are significant in the Agreement, which are conducting periodic military exercises, bolstering cooperation in the arms trade to strengthen Indian Defense Industry later on, and expanding cooperation on missile technology and Counterterrorism have been implemented in the three consecutive years after the signing. And, other specific cooperation backed by the US for example on missiles technology, also nuclear power plants "known" for civil purposes but also suspected for accelerating the ambitions in India's nuclear weapons program. All of the cooperation, mainly in the field of defense are substantially strengthen the position of India against Pakistan in the South Asia Region. One of the biggest obstacles in their Defense relations related to the policy of New Delhi to also still open the vast opportunity with Moscow as one of the biggest partners in defense not just in the past, but also in the present and future. For instance, recently the US clearly protests for India's procurement towards S-400 missiles system. India and Russia still work together in developing some sophisticated and futuristic armaments like a jet fighter and also involved actively in some military exercise and technical cooperation. Those are the real challenges in the following years that need to be addressed wisely for the sustaining, betterment and strong defense relations between India and the US.



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