

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THE PROFILES OF INDIAN DEFENSE POLICY**

Chapter II describe about the basic of Indian Defense Policy, the aims of Indian Defense Policy, the profiles of Indian Military power, the containing of the Defense Framework Agreement that was signed in 2015. Besides, explaining the development of India- US relations in the field of defense and also examining on how India and the US come into this Agreement.

#### **A. The Basic Foundations of Indian Defense Policy**

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 recent times, some experts in the field of defense in India need to think again due to the challenges in the fast-changing Indian security environment in the scope of the rising mixture in the internal and external including state- and non-state-based threats. There are plenty of insurgencies in Indian security test domestically, as a result of the scope of components, for instance, a willing for more significant dependence to leftwing radicalism and existing of the gap in socio-economic matters. The Government of India has witnessed the product of constant declining in the previous years. In external matters, India also faces some constant

challenges and the emerging disturbance that hamper their ambitions in global arena from their immediate neighborhood around such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. (Pant, 2016: 2)

Looking back to Indian history, the Mughal Empire possessed the *Arthashastra*, which is a masterwork of advice on statecraft written by Kautilya, functioned as a handbook on effective governance. It was implemented by the Emperor Chandragupta Maurya who ruled broad areas such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and north India. Some well-known Indian realist academician cited the work in the range of volumes in the field of possible political administration that (O'Donnel, 2015: 6) :

“The meta-strategic objective being for the state, and its embodiment, the ruler, to achieve the position of the *chakravartin*—the universal hegemon—within whose considerable territorial ambit strife is eliminated, peace forcefully imposed and order maintained.”

The *Arthashastra* provides an aggregate of the manual for the improvement of grand strategy. It helps to coordinate its suggestions into two main groups: firstly, concentrate on cultivating the perception, judgment, and decision making the ability of the political leadership, and those focused on building a responsive, coercive state that capable to apply the intention of the leadership, expand and select the resources needed. The volume is a lifetime work, and it concentrates in some matters such as on personalization of kingship as the default model of authority and on establishing effective state mechanisms to enforce and inform this authority, the basis in work lies in two themes which are effective political judgment by the leadership and a supportive implementation structure (O'Donnel, 2015: 7).

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.”

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985 stated the central principle of India's foreign policy, ‘We take into account what it is beneficial for India and other developing Countries, we do not take a turn to any side. Decisions are taken – even though they are difficult to take – in accordance with the principles of our independence, freedom of actions and the right to self-reliance’. It reflected when India respectively, be on the neutral side or radically revised the position dealing with other countries and some opinions were divided and concerning decide the main ally of India either with the US or with Russia. For instance, India did not favor as Russia expected in the policy of Syria and Ukraine, on the other hand, they did not' campaign for anti-Russia sanctions like many states did in the case of Crimea annexation (SIPRI, 2015: 179).

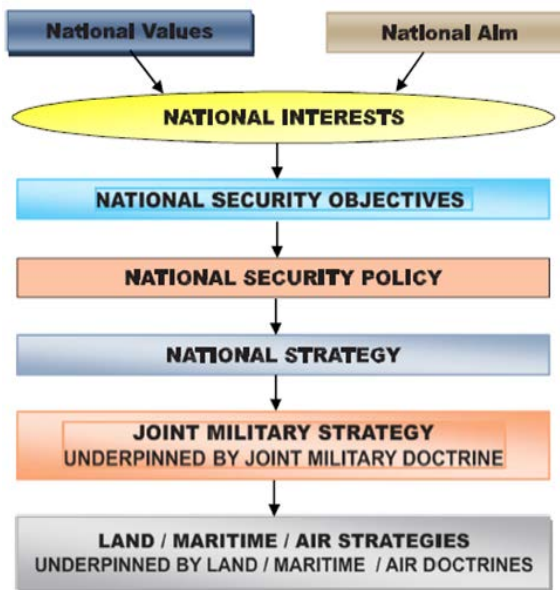
India's intention in the field of defense and foreign policy, has been committing to be more balance between engagement and autonomy as The Ministry of Defense *Annual Report of 2010–11* served to possess a "robust and autonomous defense and security strategy" as an additional to the obligatory of policy, while the Ministry of External Affairs *Annual Report 2009–2010* stated in terms of proximate

integration between India's foreign and security policy and country's security and developmental goal that is to "seek a global order in which India's interests are assured; the autonomy of India's decision-making is safeguarded; and which is conducive to achievement of the overriding goal of rapid, sustained and inclusive socio-economic development of the country." (East Asia Review, 2013: 29)

### **B. The Aims of Indian Defense Policy**

The Government of India primarily guards the Defense of India. The Indian President holds the authority as the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. The Ministry of Defense is the body as part of the Country's Cabinet, possess the responsibility to administer the policy framework and equipment where the Armed forces will implement the duty of responsibilities for the defense of the country. The prime task of the Ministry of Defense is to prepare for Defense of the country by providing the required Infrastructure, adequate trained Manpower and Defense Equipment and Platforms to the Armed Forces. And also to bridging communication between them for execution to the Services Headquarters, Inter-Service Organisations, Production Establishments and Research & Development Organisations. The good capability is needed to secure Indian borders that very vast and complex, which in number consist of nearly 15.000 KM of land borders, over 7.500 KM coastline, posses approximately 1.200 islands, and over 20.000.000 SQ KM Exclusive Economic Zone.

**Diagram 1. National Security Concept and Doctrines of India**



Source: *Indian Maritime Doctrine, Indian Navy, Naval strategic Publications*

The underlying joint and individual military doctrines administer the conceptual framework in the making of strategies of joint and single service military. Military doctrine defines the regulation for development and employment of military power. That leads the military planners in contriving their related strategies in favor of national interests and national security purposes, throughout the boundaries of national strategy. The Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff released the Joint Doctrine for the Indian Armed Forces in 2006. India's view of national interests, security objectives, and policies are enunciated by it (Doctrines Development Team, 2009: 5- 6).

The progressing of social values linked with a nation's culture and history. The Constitution of India will determine the National Aim and strengthened via political directions. The

combination of national values and national aim provides a form to National Interest, successively set the National Security Objectives. The forming of National Security Policy considers the national security objectives and the components of national power in the domestic and global environment, both that has been valid and forecasted. It gives the guideline for the policy for the development of strategies in the implementation of national power. (Doctrines Development Team, 2009: 4).

The national security policy is the basis for the national strategy that is the implementation of all kind tools of national power, in order to get the national security objectives in favor of national interest. Occasionally, in the public sphere, formal expression of national strategy/policy, or even national security objectives and interests does not exist. However, it does not mean that the existing or the understanding is none. For sure, in some countries for some cases, relatively such expression is not something old, and the source of foundation further progress of the Military Strategy has come from the national strategy, which comprises the element of Joint, Land, Maritime and Air Strategies (Doctrines Development Team, 2009: 5).

The foundation to determine the national interest is set by the national aim(s). India's Constitution has explained India's national aim which is mainly to eradicate obstacles to gain the progress for the Indian people, also in the field of economic, social and political matters of the Countries. The Preamble of the Constitution of India has written the national interest, and the focusing are mainly on the safeguarding of the nation's core values from external aggression and internal subversion and be able to be summed up as follows (Doctrines Development Team, 2009:6):

1. Sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of India.
2. The democratic, secular and federal character of the Indian Republic.

3. Secure and stable internal and external environment that is conducive to the safety, security, and development of the nation and its citizens.
4. Socio-cultural and economic well being of the nation and its citizens.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) plus feed in from the National Security Council (NSC) and other agencies compose the National Security Policy. It is enmeshed alongside with the national security objectives, the implementation of existing and forecasted domestic, regional and global security environment, many elements that related to the components of possessed national power. It serves the guideline for policy to arranged strategies in order to bolster national interests and gaining national security objectives. The component of the military in the National Security Policy is pulled out by the Raksha Mantri (RM) or Minister of Defense to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), in an Operational Directive. While the National Security Objectives can be represented as follows (Doctrines Development Team, 2009: 6-7):

1. Maintain a secure internal environment to guard against threats to national unity, core values, and development.
2. Strengthen cooperation and friendship with other countries to promote Regional and global stability.
3. Maintain a reliable and credible defense posture, and capability to safeguard the national aim and interests.

The first publication of The Indian Army Doctrine by the Shimla-based Headquarters Army Training Command was in October 2004. Military doctrines contain the initial approach to whole significant aspects in accordance to war for troops of most countries over the previous few centuries. The significant factors that possess a robust impact on the composing of military doctrines are existing strategic realities, threats, challenges, visualized opportunities, and national aspirations. Military doctrine defines as (Army Training Command, 2004: 3):

“a formal expression of military knowledge and thought that an army accepts as being relevant at a given time, which covers the nature of current and future conflicts, the preparation of the army for such conflicts and the methods of engaging in them to achieve success.”

Many factors that are forming the Military doctrines, for instance, National goals and policies; threat perception; the size of military force; technological threshold, and so on. It also contains the concept of future wars, applying of Armed Forces for deterrence, and if necessary to launch wars in chasing of National Security Objectives; applying of Armed Forces as part of defense diplomacy and in favor of foreign policy; and the duty inside the country. It is necessary to view the military doctrines as the theoretical foundation on how the military policy implemented (Directorate of Doctrine, 2009: 57).

So, in perception and reality, India has some multiple challenges in security matters both on and inside its frontiers. They already combat in three wars with its main rival, Pakistan which also have a problematic hybrid challenge and indeed consume the mind and energy of Indian military officers. Districts of Jammu and Kashmir are the primary place of conflict, and India trusts that Pakistan aids the continuing insurgencies in both places. New Delhi Administration also possesses some thoughts that Islamabad, either actively or tacitly gives aid for terrorist activity, for example, the strike to Indian Parliament on December 2002. Despite the involvement of Pakistan in irregular warfare, India cannot underestimate the capability of Pakistan conventional troops with the well-armed support. From the northeast side, India also considers China's robust military modernization seriously, despite the ongoing relatively stable relations between both Countries (Johnson, 2009: 180- 181).

India should also give serious attention towards instability in some of their neighboring States, for example, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. In the maritime



sector, India is in the center of the global most crowded and tight trade roads, also involving the Straits of Hormuz to the west and the Straits of Malacca in the eastern. At the domestic level, India also has some homework with multiples of insurgencies with different levels of intensity. There are continuing issues for example insurgency troubles the states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, and Tripura, and other areas that possess some potential seeds of violence and conflict and also the old one, the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir. Indian security troops also need to be ready for the countrywide terrorism and low level of violence that operated by the protection of the Maoist-oriented Naxal Movement. At last the region in South Asia region also inevitably one of the places of the most severe calamities could happen in the world (Johnson, 2009: 181).

### **C. The Profiles of Indian Military Power**

The National Security Strategy (NSS) of India mainly discuss the preservation of the Nation from any internal and external threats/aggression. Furthermore, the NSS comprises the preservation and strengthening of India's democratic polity, development process, internal stability and unity in its unique multi-cultural arrangement. In the era of globalization and the vast technological development, the NSS also embrace the general well-being of big India's occupant. The supporting to achieve the national interest also depends on the peace and cooperation condition of a regional and an international environment. Even the National Security Policy and Strategy of India is not formally enunciated, but it is existed and can be generally known. The core of the entire is to keep a useful conventional and nuclear deterrent capability (Directorate of Doctrine, 2009: 4).

The final purpose of India's Military Instrument is to deter aggression and, when necessary, to struggle and gain victory in the Nation's wars. In essence, the characteristic of India's Military Instrument is coercive, yet the other requirements to possess various capabilities and be able to be used in the peaceful period and also natural calamity (Joint

Doctrine, 2004: 6). National Military Objectives (NMOs) arise out from National Security requirements are as follows (Directorate of Doctrine, 2004: 4) :

- a) Prevent war through strategic and conventional deterrence across the full spectrum of military conflict, to ensure the defense of India, our National Interests and sovereignty.
- b) Prosecute military operations to defend the territorial integrity and ensure favorable end state during the war to achieve stated/implicit political objective (s).
- c) Provide assistance to ensure Internal Security, when called upon to do so.
- d) Be prepared for contingencies at home and abroad to render Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Aid to Civil Authority and International Peacekeeping, when called upon to do so.
- e) Enable required degree of self-sufficiency in defense equipment and technology through indigenization to achieve the desired degree of technological independence by 2035.

The main challenges of India's security are always don't change over time which is preserving India territory by conventionally hindering Pakistan and possibly anticipating China. Standing as a status-quo power, India's prioritization of its strategic practicing is defense over offense. In details, the Indian military was also participated in counter-insurgency operations and characterized as manpower-intensive. India's need is to integrate components of recently technological revolution, to create the leaner and lethal Armies, clashed with requiring of manpower, particularly in patrolling problematic borders. And the problematic issues that need to be asserted for modernization of the military revolve around the defense budget, for instance ten year in the post Cold War India's defence budget down from 3.17 per cent of the GDP to 2.31 per cent, and also the highly using in the non-capital expenditure, such as salaries and pensions (Joshi, 2016: 81)

**Table 1. India Military Profile 2018**

<b>India Military Profile 2018</b>	
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><i>Total Military Personnel</i></b>	<b>4,2 million</b>
<b><i>Manpower Available</i></b>	<b>616 million</b>
<b><i>Personnel (Active)</i></b>	<b>1,36 million</b>
<b><i>Reserve Personnel</i></b>	<b>2,84 million</b>
<b><i>Aircraft Carrier</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Frigates</i></b>	<b>14</b>
<b><i>Destroyer</i></b>	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Corvettes</i></b>	<b>22</b>
<b><i>Submarine</i></b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total Aircraft Strength</b>	<b>2185</b>
<b><i>Fighter Aircraft</i></b>	<b>590</b>
<b><i>Attack Aircraft</i></b>	<b>804</b>
<b><i>Transport Aircraft</i></b>	<b>708</b>
<b><i>Total Helicopter Strength</i></b>	<b>720</b>
<b><i>Attack Helicopter</i></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><i>Armored Fighting</i></b>	<b>3147</b>
<b><i>Rocket Projector</i></b>	<b>266</b>
<b><i>Tanks</i></b>	<b>4426</b>
<b><i>Towed Artillery</i></b>	<b>4158</b>
<b><i>Self Propelled Artillery</i></b>	<b>190</b>

Source: [https://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country\\_id=india](https://www.globalfirepower.com/country-military-strength-detail.asp?country_id=india)

The program of India's defense modernization begun rapidly started in the post-1999 Kargil War and Operation *Parakram*. The already had last three defense plans – Tenth (2002–7), Eleventh (2007–12) and Twelfth (2012–17), the whole is stressed on the necessity to integrate significant platforms for the defense forces. The budget for military modernization has been defined at \$220 billion in the span between 2007 and 2017. The investment in major defense platforms by purchasing majorly of these off-the-shelf from outside companies in the circumstances that it would required technology transfers for indigenous production later on. Platform acquisition has become the main concentration since the beginning of the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) which is to possess modern platforms (Joshi, 2016: 85).

In the recent past the patterns in Defense acquisition indicate that the military has left from a threat-based approach to capacity-based approach which means that defense planning stressed its attempt to set up needed capabilities, not only to execute and dominate the whole spectrum of conflicts but also to give possible flexibility to the decision-makers in selecting for best military strategies while dealing multiple possibilities. (Bakshi, 2010: 246). Moreover, yet, the need of military's readiness is significant when dealing with specific threats vis-a-vis Pakistan, China, and internal security, so, the approach of India recently are able to be called as 'a partial capability based defense planning system' (Joshi, 2016: 86).

India launched off one of the most significant modernization programs which are similar to US Army's Future Force Warrior initiative in Infantry called F-INSAS (futuristic infantry soldier as a system) with purposes to change the force 'into fully networked, digitized, self-contained 21st-century warriors.' (Army Technology, 2012) There are several actions in modernizing the Indian Armed Forces, such as the stride to add two regiments of indigenously built Main Battle Tanks (MBT) Arjun as well as the import of 310 T-90 MBTs from Russia with the clause of transfer of technology (ToT). Moreover, despite the success of

functioning artillery in the Kargil War, it is necessary to be highlighted in the attempt to redevelop the old fleet of artillery guns. The procurement of self-propelled 155-mm ultra-light guns has bolstered the army's fire-power delivery a lot. The Indian Army's artillery arsenal added by Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles (Annual Defense Report, 2010-11: 21). And then also there is changing many of old air defense systems by putting Akash Missile Systems and low-level Light Weight Radars (LLLWR).

The Indian Navy Modernization program similar to the army which is platform-centric has created some step forward. In the period of previous two decades, the power of the navy has lived up to 30 percent, and considered as the third largest in Asia, after Japan and China. They have five-year defense plan for 2012–17 and the Long Term Integrated Plan (LTIPP) 2012–27, with the purposes that 'the Indian navy is aiming to induct more than 90 fighting platforms in another ten years.' (Scott: 2013: 495) The constant improvement towards a three-aircraft carrier force INS Vikramaditya (previously, Admiral Ghorskov) engaged the force in 2013 and the first indigenously built aircraft carrier, that has been joined the force in 2017 (Joshi, 2016: 86).

The force level in the Indian Air Force has experienced reduction from 40 fighter squadrons into 34 due to the condition of older aircraft such as the MiG-21s and MiG-27s, but the procurement process that is expected to increase the number and strength into 42 by 2022. It is undeniable that in order to meet the 21st-century warfare, the transition of the air force of approximately 60 squadrons, with upgrading most of the fighters into fourth and 5th generation. The Indian Airforce main power has possessed French-built Mirage and Jaguars and Russian MiG-29s and Su-30 MKI. Some procurement in attempt to increase the power such as France's Rafale fighter aircraft as the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) and Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas) that initially gained operational clearance in 2011 will substitute the old fleet of MiG-21s (Joshi, 2016: 87).

All of the modernization programs could give India more confidence to face any threats and challenges mainly in the Asia- Pacific region. China through its White Paper mentioned their purposes in order to expand strategic missile and space-based sources and robustly, bolstering the blue- water navy program to exercise operations in the far waters. China also concerns the systematic improvement of infrastructure, espionage operations and surveillance, quick response and operational capabilities in the frontier spots. All the things are, and India has to watch it severely in the coming future due to impacts that can give problems for the security and defense of India. They also give military support and collaboration with Pakistan that probably give a chance for them via the link of the areas that unlawfully controlled by Pakistan in the Jammu and Kashmir Districts. All of those could give direct military problems for India (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2010: 205).

The Indian Military especially its Navy should preserve the maritime security of India that involved the coastline in the West that directing to Sea of Arabs, the Bay of Bengal to the east and the more magnificent Indian Ocean in the South. Particularly expanded economic and business become the principal point of protection along the Coast and the towns around. The maritime problems have expanded in some consecutive years such as in the topics of piracy on the high seas, the security of sea-lanes, and energy security. The Indian Navy has done the splendid job in restraining piracy in some areas in the Indian Ocean. The Core is the capability of Indian Military in the Maritime sector is very significant for example in the case of Mumbai terror strike and because of the risks that the Country faced regarding present and future (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2010: 205).

#### **D. The Containing of Defense Framework Agreement 2015**

After the end of World War II (WWII), when India just gained its independence, US -India relations were opposite to each other. It was begun by Jawaharlal Nehru as the first prime minister of India, enacted the nonalignment in foreign affairs as the initial strategy in order to affirm India's sovereignty in the International arena. The making of the Defense Research and Development Organization in 1958, clearly shown that India's ultimate purposes in the defense policy were self- reliance, and then be able to comprehensively become expert in military technology in order to supply the armed forces well. Twenty years after independence approximately in the mid 19060s, India tried to reach on self-sufficiency, and the next twenty years they were made the bigger self-reliance came true, and since the late of 1980's the focusing was on co-production and modernization (Pedro, 2016 ).

The new test on India and the US relations emerged after the end of the Cold War. India's responds towards the collapse of the Soviet Union was it had made the significant impact on the past strong alliances which contained Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, but also wiped out the ideological war between two superpowers, in which India had inclined more on the Soviet side. There were possibilities that India would become more isolated in the International arena after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the US used this momentum to review all the previous alliances from their rival and made new assessment towards other states, including India (Scott, 2011: 245-246).

Since 2001, the relations between India and the United States in the field of defense relations had experienced improvement. The signing of their bright future in the regional partnership linked with the achievement in conducting military cooperation in the India Ocean at the tragedy of Tsunami on December 2004. The US gives aid and together with Indian Navy held joint rescue operations. It was expressed so

apparently in the 2002 Department of Defense report that one of the US interest was chasing a strategic partnership with India. The main factors that were developing this entirely new relationship are increase procurement activity and joint cooperation of navy united by some specific problems that need to be undertaken together, for instance, anti-piracy and counter-narcotics (Pedro, 2016).

They 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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):

1. maintaining security and stability;
2. defeating terrorism and violent religious extremism;
3. preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and associated materials, data, and technologies;
4. Supporting rule-based order in protecting the free flow of commerce.

Moreover, in order to achieve of the shared vision of both Countries, in the circumstances of an expanded and deeper U.S.-India strategic relationship, the defense establishments of both Countries are in the direction to (Defense Framework Agreement, 2015):

- a. conduct regular service- specific joint and combined exercises and exchanges;
- b. collaborate in multinational operations whenever it is in their common interest;
- c. Enhance cooperation in military training and education, including instructor and student exchanges, and collaboration between national defense universities;
- d. Strengthen the capabilities of their defense establishments to promote security and defeat terrorism;
- e. Expand interaction with other nations in ways that promote regional and global peace and stability;
- f. Enhance capabilities to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- g. Increase exchanges and intelligence;
- h. In the context of this strategic relationship, continue to strengthen two-way US- India defense trade. The United States and India commit to work to conclude defense transactions, not as ends in and of themselves, but as means to strengthen both countries' security, to reinforce the strategic partnership, to achieve greater interaction between their armed forces, and to build greater understanding between defense establishments;
- i. Exchanges experiences and practices in operating common defense platforms and increase capacity to use such platforms optimally;
- j. Expand collaboration relating to missile defense;

- k. Strengthen the abilities of their militaries to respond quickly to disaster situations, including in combined operations;
- l. Assist in building worldwide capacity to conduct successful peacekeeping operations, with a focus on enabling other countries to field trained, capable forces for these operations;
- m. Conduct routine exchanges on defense strategy and defense transformation;
- n. continue strategic-level discussions by senior leadership from the U.S. Department of Defense and India's Ministry of Defense, in which the two sides exchange perspectives on international security issues of common interest, with the aim of increasing mutual understanding, promoting shared objectives, and developing common approaches; and
- o. Enhance cooperation toward maritime security and to increase each other's capability to secure the free movement of lawful commerce and freedom of navigation across sea lines of communication in accordance with the principles of international law.

The primary mechanism to guide the U.S.-India strategic defense relationship lies in the Defense Policy Group (DPG). The function of this group is to create appropriate adjustments to the structure and frequency of its meetings and its subgroups, when agreed to by the Defense Policy Group co-chairs, to ensure that it remains an effective mechanism to advance U.S.-India defense cooperation. While Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) acknowledge the transformative impacts for both sides and dealing with the issues on resolving the obstructing on cooperation and alignment of systems; increasing the free flow of technology and investment; developing capabilities and partnership in co-development and co-production; and intensifying cooperation in research and development. The DTTI will report every progress to the DPG (Defense Framework Agreement, 2015).