

# Meaning of India-US Relations

A few days before Trump's stepping down from the US Presidency US made a few revelations on US and India relations.

Speaking at a farewell meeting on Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Delhi, the US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster said: " Our close coordination ( with India ) has been important as India confronts, perhaps on a sustained basis, aggressive Chinese activity on its border." Mr. Juster refused to comment on specific questions like what kind of co-operation the US had extended to India. He said that if the Govt. of India wants to comment on that, it can do so.

It must be noted here that so far the Indian Govt. has been maintaining that India was resolving the dispute with China "bilaterally and diplomatically."

In a talk in Delhi on the topic, "Ambitions and achievements in the US – India Partnership", Kenneth Juster said: (1) "No bilateral relationship in the world is as broad, complex and rich in substance as that of the US and India." (2) " We both share a vision of the Indo-Pacific region that provides the opportunities for all countries to grow and prosper, but also want to avoid incursions of any type, intimidation, predatory financing and when there is a situation that is indicative along those lines, we have co-operated to try to resist it." (3) The bilateral defense and strategic co-operation (between US and India) had been particularly focused on the India-Pacific region during Trump's period, where the US military renamed its Pacific command as Indo-Pacific command (INDOPACOM) and India's Ministry of External Affairs established a new Indo-Pacific Division.

Again, more revelations came in the first week of January 2021 with the release of a declassified document, "Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific" signed by US and India in 2018. The document noted 'promoting American values throughout the region to counter-balance values being promoted by China, deterring China from using force or threats against US allies and partners and building a credible economic response and advancing "US global economic leadership" to counter China's influence and its projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative as one of the main objectives of US and India Strategic relationship.

It seems, the US has come to the conclusion that time has come to pull down even a thin mask that was concealing the real aims of its relations with India and pursue them openly.

We have discussed in the columns of the **Class Struggle** how the US imperialists had been tying India with various strings to the chariot wheel of their strategy for domination and how the Indian rulers from the days of Congress rule to the present day of BJP's rule were shamelessly succumbing to it. The Indian rulers had been bluffing that their relations with US are based on equal footing and inspired by the common desire to protect the rights and interests of people in the Indo-Pacific region and they are not directed against any third Country. But the realities are otherwise. As the US revelations clearly admit that the US and India relations are aimed at firstly, "promoting the American values throughout the Indo-Pacific region" and "advancing the US global economic leadership" and, secondly, countering China which is considered as a potential foe to US.

Ever since China with its capitalist road came on the world scene as a powerful economic power, it is in an offensive drive to expand its economic activities and political influence in various countries of Indo-Pacific region as well as world. It is in a tough competition with US and other European powers in the sphere of economy and trade. US sees China's growing economic and political relations with the countries of Indo-Pacific region as a big hurdle in its drive for domination. US think that it alone cannot counter China and sharing of the burden by other countries in the region, importantly India, is very much essential.

The questions here are: Can India – a worst victim of the policies of imperialist plunder, oppression and domination and the US which is a biggest imperialist power and which is hell bent on dominating the world – have common interests? Is it not an act of national betrayal for the Indian ruling classes to make a deal behind the back of Indian people with US – an oppressive power and join a strategic alliance initiated and led by US to impose its own hegemony over the Indo-Pacific region and the world? India, for that matter, any country in a situation similar to India has the right to oppose any attempt by a country – be it China too- to interfere, illegally encroach upon the territories, resort to threats or expansionist moves. But it is totally impermissible and even suicidal for a country to embrace an oppressive power like US imperialism and lend it services in imposing its domination on other countries and people in the world. This will never be accepted by our people.

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