Towards its realisation of the "Common Vision" based on converging grounds and aims, the recent visit of the Indian Prime Minister to U.S.A includes the needs and expectations of Indian defense and development. The new upcoming impressive coalition of the two vibrant democracies may generate considerable speculations within and outside the Indian subcontinent.

In the post cold war era, new international identities and relations are being inexorably constructed to translate the past experience of individual nations into new opportunities. While the core issues of bilateral and multilateral dialogues still hover around the traditional principles of national interest, contemporary compulsions are incorporated with utmost attention. Accordingly the recognition and image of a nation in today’s changing global order essentially requires intellectually articulate policy-making. Each step taken today has long term international ramifications.

A significant stride in this direction has been taken by the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, at the UN Millennium Summit while calling the world community to see through "Orwellian mockery of truth" and upholding the Indian stance that "dialogue and terrorism just can not go together". Though, the Prime Ministerial utterance was more Pakistan-centric and less regional, it included the long term vision for a world-free from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The Indian commitment to the global body was reassured with a
desire for the expansion in the Security Council’s membership. Still, India has a long way to go to convince the world of its neighbourhood policies and compulsions that restrict her otherwise from several constructive engagements. Of late, India has been substantially successful in clearing a number of misconceptions about India in the international environment. The tough task ahead is to build and maintain better India-U.S relations in future and equally look into Sino-Indian relations with a positive attitude.

The China Factor

Today, amidst a realist and transitional world politics, no Indian foreign policy making could be bereft of Chinese intentions and attitudes towards India. To foresee the tentative trends in India-U.S and China- India relations, one needs to have a close look into the debated or emerging perceptions among the Chinese scholars on Sino-U.S relations along with their line of thinking with regard to India.

This paper enumerates few common derivatives drawn upon the following viewpoints of different Chinese scholars on the U.S.A in general and on the U.S- India relations in particular.

1. The next 10 to 15 years will be the fastest as well as the taking-shape period of the development of multi-polar world configuration. With changes of situation in world’s most influential areas as well as the unbalanced development of power centers and the constant readjustment of their relations among each other, particularly the rise of China, Japan, ASEAN, India, EU, etc., it is expected to form a multipolar world political pattern formed by three core areas, namely, America, Europe and Asia and five power centers, which are, the United States, EU, Japan, China and Russia. (Li Zhongcheng, "The Role Of An Emerging China In World Politics", Contemporary International Relations, Vol.8, No.2, 1998, p.9)
2. Since the end of the cold war, the United States has never formulated a relatively comprehensive and mature policy towards South Asia that conforms with its long-term interests. It has proposed to open up a new era of constructive cooperation and establish a broad strategic partnership with India and tried hard to drag India into the US-dominated world order and its strategic orbit in the South Asian region. The reshaping of US strategy towards South Asia is not only solely a change in its policy to gain a firm foothold in the South Asian region, but also one of the important measures it has adopted to further adjust its strategy in the Asia-Pacific region with an aim far beyond its strategic interest in South Asia. (Yang Haisheng, "An Attention-Getting Readjustment of US Policy Towards South Asia", International Strategic Studies, No.3, Serial No.57, July 2000, pp. 31-35)

3. The target of the "engagement and enlargement strategy" points to the establishment of "a unique world leading position" of the United States through more aggressive "engagement" in the affairs of all regions and nations of the world to "enlarge" and advance U.S. interests, values and political and economic modes. And the potential threats mainly refer to the fact that Russia and China may become global adversaries after 2015 to the United States. U.S. hegemonism may prevail for a while but is difficult to last for long. Its scheme for the establishment of a "unipolar" world shall not succeed. (Shang Hong, "The U. S National Security Strategy and Its Impact on the International Security", International Strategic Studies, No.3, Serial No.57, July 2000, pp. 19-24)

4. Instead of pursuing a globalisation based on equality and mutual respect, Washington, the sole super power with a significant impact on the course of world developments, is seeking to turn globalisation into Americanisation. (Zhang Minqian, "Globalisation versus US strategy", Contemporary International Relations, Vol.10, No.6, June 2000, p.10)

5. The "Single Pole" versus "multi-pole" conflict is expected to flare up in the course of realignments in international relations. Guided by the multipolar concept in their search for global power equilibrium, the other big powers will readjust their foreign policies in light of their national interests and enhanced interdependence among them in the international power configuration. Absence of major strategic divisions among China, India, Russia and France indicates that they would be the major forces promoting the process of "multipolarisation". (Lu Zhongwei, "International Scene at the Dawn of a New Century", Contemporary International Relations, Vol.10, No.1, 2000, pp.7-8)

6. By publishing the “Four Year’s Appraisal Report” (Report published in 1997), of Pentagon, the US is making the strategic offensive in the globe to push the world after the cold war to a new roily period, posing a severe threat to the peace and development. (Wang Zaibang, "Refections on the Transformation of World Pattern and Responsibility Adjustment", Contemporary International Relations, Vol.10, No.2, February 2000, p.11)
7. After the end of Cold War the "common threat" for the US-led NATO has disappeared. In order to legalize their external intervention and expansion, they have spared no efforts to fabricate all kinds of absurd "theories", e.g., "the human rights above the sovereignty", "humanitarian intervention", "no national boundaries for the internal affairs", "collision of civilizations" and so on. (Sa Bennwang, "The Past Not Forgotten Is a Guide for the Future", International Strategic Studies, No.3, Serial No.57, July 2000, p.39)

8. To keep the world arms race under control, U.S. military hegemonism must be stopped. It is a source of worsening global security. (News From China, 12 July 2000, p.17)

9. After India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in succession in May 1998, China and the U.S. have consulted and cooperated with each other closely and taken a common standpoint for the purpose of stability in South Asia and the International goal on the prevention of nuclear proliferation. (Chu Shulong, "Bilateral and Regional Strategic and Security Relationship Between China and the US after the Cold War", Contemporary International Relations, Vol.10, No.5, May 2000, p.8)

COMMON DERIVATIVES

1. Chinese foreign and strategic world views revolve around the American post-cold war policies and initiatives, i.e., the U.S.A’s international behaviour remains pivotal to the Chinese international perceptions.

2. With corollary to the derivative 1, China vehemently opposes the idea of "hegemony" in any world order and instead supports "multi-polarity" of power.

3. While advocating for multi-polar world order, China desires to become a potential alternative centre of power in any international system, if not equal at least at par with the US.

4. Despite glaring limitations in technological advancements in China, while the Chinese scholars and officials begin their propositions with "world peace and development", they inadvertently find the clash of interests with America at almost all the present and prospective conflict areas of the world.
5. Perhaps, it will take considerably long time when the US itself should bring necessary changes in its policy of "engagement" and China would unequivocally participate in it.

**Imperatives for India:**

6. Mutual distrust and misperceptions between China and the U.S might directly affect the Sino-US relations and indirectly but substantially it would affect their influence over the South Asian regional configuration.

7. India is being rarely referred directly in the Chinese world propositions but the progress in Indian defence and development is seen by the Chinese scholars as a potential rising power.

8. The improvement in US-India relations is being viewed with suspicions and apprehension.

9. Better India-America relation is being perceived as a threat to the Chinese scheme of things in Asia which may further affect India-Pakistan relations.

10. On the issues of non-proliferation, both China and USA share a common view regarding Indian achievements. However, international reports project a "hide and seek" behavioural interaction when it comes to their individual maneuverings.

**Conclusion:**

Evoking a sense of mystery in international relations has long been a significant foreign policy characteristic of China. Therefore, to understand the Chinese intention in international relation one needs unending curiosity and an enterprising patience. Consequently, the principles of "Caution and moderation" are best suited to the Indian policy-making.
Indian quest for raising international standing and finding more space for diplomatic manoeuvering must be the essential part of any Indian foreign policy initiative.

Further, a nation’s indispensable economic strength has shown its importance in withering away of the Soviet empire. Also, India already in the past had lost several opportunities to be at the front in line with other industrialised states. Recent world recognition of India as an emerging IT giant, should be invigorated with maximum possible support policies. Perhaps then that China will also come forward and strengthen the hands of unity and prosperity.

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