



## The Maidgate Crisis

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## India-USA: does “strategic partnership” have a future?



An incident with the arrest of Indian diplomat by the U.S. authorities in New York, which occurred on December 12, 2013, and an openly discriminatory treatment of her, has forced India not only to take a series of response measures, in respect of members of the U.S. diplomatic corps in its country, but also to reconsider the nature of its relations with Washington in various areas, such as energy (especially the nuclear sphere), trade, military and technical, and scientific cooperation.

Various American analysts assessed the considerable development of U.S. relations with India, which has been achieved in the last ten years “as an undoubted success of White House policy since the “cold war” ended. The first notable progress in the USA-India relations occurred during the visit of the U.S. President Bill Clinton to India in March 2000. The growth of India’s economy and liberalization in this country did not go unnoticed in America. During the presidency of G.W. Bush Jr., Washington started carrying out a “policy of enhanced cooperation” especially vigorously. Since 2004, the trade turnover between the two countries has grown from \$30 billion to almost \$100 billion by the end of 2013. The amount of mutual investments has also increased.

Particular attention of the U.S. to India is due not only to the fact that now it is a country with a strong economy and huge human resources, but also due to the fact that it is a nuclear power. India has been actively developing its nuclear energy and nuclear industry, and the armed forces of the republic have been equipped with nuclear weapons. Considering these factors, the White House has noted that India can become a real geopolitical U.S. ally in the region, and be used to protect U.S. interests against Pakistan and China. In particular, in case of a skilful use of the fears of New Delhi, concerning a terrorist threat from Pakistan and recurring problems in Chinese-Indian relations.

In July 2005, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the U.S. President George W. Bush Jr. signed an agreement on cooperation in nuclear power engineering. In 2008, India and the United States concluded their first long-term strategic agreement in the field of foreign policy and global partnership on cooperation in civil nuclear energy. According to these agreements, over the next few decades, India was guaranteed a supply of nuclear fuel for civilian reactors, many of which, of course, were to be built by American companies. The value of these contracts was estimated at nearly \$150 billion. However, in subsequent years, these agreements were not developed due to the unwillingness of the U.S. side to take responsibility for any nuclear accidents in the future, which was provided by the law on this issue, adopted in India in 2010. Such a “reserved” position of Washington is not surprising, especially because, as the experience has shown, not all nuclear facilities built by the USA can be regarded as completely safe, even in the face of climatic or geological processes. This was made apparent, in particular, by the recent events with the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan, which was built with the participation of the United States.

It is noteworthy that in 2009, a well-known Indian diplomat, Rajiv Sikri, who had worked in the Indian Foreign Service since 1970, noted in his book “Challenge and Strategy: Rethinking India’s Foreign Policy” that “the main purpose of the U.S. in the nuclear agreement with India was diametrically opposed to what the U.S. government was saying. The real purpose was to drive India into a framework that would not strengthen its nuclear power, but, just the opposite, would constrain India’s strategic opportunities.”

While developing relations with India, Washington’s special interest in the last decade has also been due to New Delhi’s policies regarding the modernization of armaments of its national army. After all, the structure of conventional weapons has remained virtually unchanged for more than a quarter century in this country, and has grown increasingly inadequate in the conditions of a technological revolution in the military sphere. Therefore, being a de facto nuclear nation, India should have developed a less cumbersome and more effective military force, created a military industry that would place its nuclear missile forces at the centre of national defence. For this reason, it is the military and technical cooperation and arms sales to India, which in recent years have become the main directions of development of not only the White House bilateral cooperation with New Delhi, but also of fixing the dependence of this Asian nation on America. This, in particular, was said in June 2012 by Leon Panetta, who was the head of Pentagon at the time, and who also noted that New Delhi was an “important link” in the new U.S. military strategy focused on Asia. “The military cooperation with India is the basis of this strategy,” he said.

As a result, the United States has sold India weapons worth more than \$12 billion in the past five years alone, concluded agreements for supply of primarily military aircraft equipment worth many billions of dollars in the coming years. They include, in particular, 22 Apache combat helicopters, made in America (total amount of the contract is estimated at about \$1.5 billion), 15 heavy Chinook transport helicopters (order amount is nearly one billion dollars), 12 P-8 anti-submarine aircraft (contract amount is about three billion dollars), 12 C-130 J transport aircraft, known as the Super Hercules (amounting to more than \$2.1 billion), 10 C-17 military transport aircraft (total value of \$4.1 billion), 3 Gulfstream-3 reconnaissance aircraft equipped with a special marine observing radar and an inertial navigation system, 245 Stinger MANPADs, and a significant amount of ammunition for them, etc. In addition, it has been planned to equip the newest Indian fighter – the Tejas, the production of which is now in the initial stage –

with the engines of the American company General Electric (at least 220 units of this aircraft version should be supplied to the Indian Army).

Of course, not all of these military contracts have been executed in the normal way or have the prospects of implementation under the present circumstances. The Indian side has repeatedly had doubts regarding the sincerity of the American “sellers”. Moreover, this is not surprising if we recall just the widely known incident with the arrest of the CIA agent F.D. Larkins by the security forces of India in 1984. This agent was trying hard for several months to persuade representatives of the Indian Defence Ministry, in various ways, to make a decision on purchasing weapons produced in the West (especially in America).

The incidents that occurred between the two countries in computer space during the last period, from which India has suffered repeatedly, also lead the Indian side to a critical rethinking of the country’s “strategic cooperation” with the U.S. It is not only the publicly known facts of keeping under surveillance politicians, academics and ordinary citizens of India in the information space, organized by the U.S. intelligence, and activity of a number of radio interception and computer control centres in the region and in India. It is also computer viruses of the Stuxnet type, created by the U.S. National Security Agency, from which computer networks in India have suffered.

The Indian side is also reconsidering its scientific cooperation with the United States. In this respect, we can mention the widely known past incidents with scientists from the American G. Hopkins University, who were expelled from the country by the Indian authorities for their work in the suburbs of Delhi and Indian port of Pondicherry. These experts were working on changing the genetic code of mosquitoes to “teach” these insects to carry not the traditional malaria virus, but the causative agent of yellow fever, which has a much more powerful and “harmful” effect.

Thus, despite the rapid development of the USA-India relations in recent years, many controversial issues between the two countries still require resolution.

There is no doubt that the alert public, the media, and politicians in India will follow attentively the development of the December incident with a member of the Indian diplomatic mission in New York, and its impact on future USA-India relations. Of course, this incident will contribute to further aggravation of the struggle in the upcoming parliamentary elections in India between the currently ruling Indian National Congress and the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which adheres to an anti-American position, and is now starting to make gains in popularity.

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## Henry Kamens

14.01.2014 Column: Society Region: Southern Asia

### Arrest of Indian Diplomat Shows America Has Learnt Nothing



Many questions remain over the arrest and ill treatment of Devyani Khobragade, the former Indian vice-council in New York. More is involved here than meets the eye. The case goes far beyond her allegedly underpaying an employee.

U.S. labor rules require that a babysitter be paid \$9.75 an hour. Khobragade paid Sangeeta Richard merely a third of the required amount. Maybe a crime was theoretically committed, in the home of unfettered free market capitalism, but that is hardly a reason for publicly arresting a diplomat when there are plenty of American

households doing the same.

Regardless of the ledger of guilt or innocence, the question remains what message was being sent to the Indian government by the United States, and how the wider diplomatic community is supposed to interpret it. Clearly they are not supposed to believe that America wants foreign ambassadors to abide by its labor codes, as it makes no attempt to introduce internationally accepted labor standards in the countries where it effectively controls the government.

We are back to the days of the 1950s, when the United Nations was established in New York, to show how important America was, and the first Secretary General was then charged with **filling the place with communists**. There were many communist countries then, you couldn't avoid receiving their diplomats. This sort of hypocrisy is the main reason the Cold War and communism lasted as long as they did.

Devyani Khobragade didn't actually have full diplomatic immunity, but that is beside the point. She was arrested in a show of publicity, which the US must have known would follow, processed as a hardened criminal and tossed in with the standard prison

population. Khobragade was stripped searched and cavity searched. Now the US denies this, but it happened. What relevance such searches have to do with underpaying a babysitter is for the rest of the world to guess.

According to Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, the U.S. handling of the affair was “outrageous”. He added in a recent interview that “there was no reason to treat Khobragade so harshly, unceremoniously and the Indian government’s retaliatory action is in step with public opinion at home.”

On the surface the incident could not have come at a worse time for the US, which is changing its policy towards India and China, seeing their region as the next to be brought under US domination. However it sends a signal consistent with its new position. America is your friend if you obey its rules. Start listening to other friends and you will suffer the consequences.

India has always maintained that Khobragade’s status in the US, as an adviser to India’s U.N. mission, affords her diplomatic immunity. However that term cuts both ways. It has long been reported in the Western media that diplomats from various countries are smuggling arms and other contraband in their diplomatic bags, which can’t be searched. If you are a diplomat and “foreign”, underpaying the babysitter might be the tip of the iceberg.

Pundits in India are, of course, looking for the deeper motivations behind the incident, so that they can draw the conclusions the US wants them to and think they are their own idea. India has always been a problem as far as the US is concerned. It has longstanding links with the Soviet Union and now Russia, involving arms, nuclear technology and positive trade relations. America doesn’t like its allies talking to the so-called post-Cold war enemy. India carries on doing it because it respects proper boundaries and can turn these relations to its advantage. America can’t, and that’s what it doesn’t like. You can’t be better than the US of A and get away with it.

India has positive relations with the US too. Aside from the many call service jobs now outsourced to India, the US and India had a \$86 billion mutual trade turnover last year. Politicians of all shades are now nevertheless questioning the unconditional pro-American stance India has always adopted politically. This is an election year in India. Few who stand for office are going to be too pro-American when this is how America treats their diplomats. The USA may soon discover that sending a message to India may have far worse geopolitical consequences than it intended.

The incident has been a windfall for the BRICs countries, Brazil, Russia, India and China. The message was meant for them all, and especially China, which been the focus of much American rhetoric in recent years. China has the same problem – it does the wrong thing, from a US point of view, and it works. Now the BRICs countries, long lectured by the US, can claim the moral high ground. Will they now start lecturing the US in their turn, and demanding partnership on terms more favorable to themselves?

Aside from the egg on the face, the United States’ diplomatic stupidity will come with substantial blowback. All parts of the globe are touched by American policy, American diplomacy and practical attempts to assert American values. Now its friends know how America will treat them when it wants to make a point. **You can treat naughty infants like that, but not sovereign nations.**



At least the hired help working for Indian diplomats will be paid the going rate as a result of this diplomatic showdown, or perhaps not. It would be difficult to find many people, diplomats or not, who pay almost 10 dollars an hour for domestic help these days, especially when so many unemployed Americans are willing to work for less. Arresting a foreign diplomat, publicly branding them as “not one of us”, won’t change that. The diplomat isn’t innocent. She claimed in court documents that she was paying her female nanny \$4,500 per month, when in reality she received only \$573 monthly, a measly \$3.31 an hour. But the international furor which has followed the arrest confirms that everyone is aware that this matter has nothing to do with paying the minimum wage.

The Indian diplomat was indicted after being granted immunity and asked to leave the United States, which she did. Technically the charges are still pending. But now Secretary of State John Kerry has stepped in, expressing regret over the affair. **Usually a government trumpets its success when it removes criminals from its shores.** Kerry is trying to save face, which would be easier if he didn’t have so many of them.

When the arrest became known India transferred Khobragade to a position giving her full diplomatic immunity, allegedly to protect her from further criminal proceedings. Much has been made of this in some quarters. But little is ever said about the US demanding diplomatic immunity for its contract employees, CIA operatives, in the same way.

Khobragade’s treatment at the hands of US law enforcement can be regarded as **sexual abuse** under American law. Kerry’s expression of regret was carefully designed not to be an apology. The idea of an educated, middle class woman being given a strip and cavity search is anathema in India. If she is breaking American laws you send her a note telling her so, and ask her to correct matters, not this.

The whole concept of strategic partnership is to find ways of maximizing your relations with countries which sometimes oppose your positions. India not only works with countries the US doesn’t like but does it more successfully than the US does. That is its crime, not sending diplomats to feed the babysitter yesterday’s leftover curry. Now India’s economic success threatens US

positions the superpower has to lay down the law. Play by our rules or be hit. In a strategic partnership the rules are agreed by all sides. That means you sometimes have to learn, not always teach.

The US does not want to learn from India, and to justify this it brands its representatives as criminal for doing what is commonplace in the US. Would it not be better to learn than destroy a strategic partnership, and all the good it can do, for \$9.75 an hour?

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## Yuri Kirillov

12.01.2014 Column: Society Region: Southern Asia

### India -US: The "Maidgate" crisis rages on.



Indian government has recently decided to delay the next round of the bilateral energy talks with the U.S. that was supposed to be held earlier this January. The diplomatic scandal that broke out a month ago is miles away from completion.

The political bomb detonated on December 12, 2013 when Indian vice-consul Devyani Khobragade was arrested in the broad daylight in New York. She was treated rather harshly by the U.S. police officers, on top of all she was subjected to the humiliating nude search. The woman is accused of visa fraud since she allegedly underpaid her maid. Devyani Khobragade was released on bail, but should the U.S. authorities have put her on felon's dock, she could have faced 10 years in prison.

This incident sparked protests and severe irritation in India on both the official and public levels, since such treatment of a person that enjoys diplomatic immunity was perceived as unacceptable. The situation is heated by the fact that according to the Indian traditions one can only arrest and handcuff an educated woman like Devyani Khobragade in the utmost cases, which means that she should have committed a serious felon. The country saw mass protests, people were burning American flags, calling for a boycott of American goods and restaurants, some of the latter were trashed. Because of this point of discord a number of Indian politicians, including the speaker of the Indian Parliament, refused to meet with their American counterparts.

The Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged the United States to stop prosecution of the Indian vice-consul and warned the U.S. side there would be a number of serious steps to follow. The U.S. diplomats in India lost a number of [privileges](#) they enjoyed due to their status.

India said that the recreational enterprise on the territory of the U.S. embassy in the heart of Delhi, with its restaurants and shops is to be closed to any non-diplomatic resident or visitor and that it should cease all "commercial activities" by January 16. For decades the U.S. citizens employed in India, and the guests of the American mission enjoyed this club.

The reaction of the Indian authorities to the incident was supported by Pakistan, Pakistani ambassador to New Delhi said, referring to the Vienna Convention, that this kind of treatment of diplomatic representatives to foreign countries is unacceptable.

In the midst of anti-American campaign, the Indian press remembered how in 2010 two senior Indian diplomats faced an equally disrespectful treatment in the U.S. airports: they were searched and forced to remove their turbans.

Some media sources believe that the current crisis in India, that goes after the name of "Maid-gate" is the most serious discord between the two countries since 1998. Last time around Washington reacted rather critically to the nuclear explosions carried out by Delhi.

Many observers believe that Washington has buried its own geopolitical interests in the region, that is believed of great strategic importance to the U.S. The reasons are a plenty but the foremost is the opposition to China, along with preserving political influence in Pakistan and Kabul, particularly in the context of the forthcoming withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

Others believe that the two countries have accumulated a number of long-standing problems in the political, economic and other areas that are blocking the way of peaceful cooperation. Last year, for example, saw the growing tension between the two countries in the domains of bilateral trade, intellectual property protection and visa issuance for the Indian information technology workers.

Therefore, the incident with the vice-consul of India wasn't disregarded and caused a long train of consequences.

According to Foreign Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin, the U.S. demanded India to withdraw Devyani Khobragade's immunity, so she left the United States on January 9. Simultaneously, the Indian side demanded one of the American diplomats to India to pack up and go home.

Speaking about the international repercussions of the December incident, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs of India Kamal Nath, noted that the kind of behavior showed by the United States should be taken seriously by all countries, for tomorrow a similar story could happen to any of them.

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## Vladimir Platon

11.01.2014 Column: Politics Region: Southern Asia

### India-US: The American Immunity



Relations between India and the U.S. continue deteriorating after the discriminatory actions the U.S. authorities have taken in the regard of the Indian vice-consul Devyani Khobragade, that was arrested despite the fact that she was an official Indian representative to the UN.

In response to the charges against the India diplomat, that is allegedly guilty of fraudulent activities in regard of her personal maid, the Indian authorities have started to take adequate measures against American institutions and citizens that are trying to impose on their own rules on the pretext that they are representing a "superpower".

Thus India has demanded the closure of the American Community Support Association club, a business that contradicts the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. This club offered American citizens fitness training, bowling, swimming pools, a bar and a restaurant while paying no local taxes. The U.S. diplomats can no longer disobey the local driving rules without paying fines for it, they have also lost all privileges in the Indian airports. Earlier, the security barricades that were installed after the September 11 attacks at the front of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi got removed.

According to The Hindustan Times, the Indian government has delayed the next round of the energy talks with the U.S. side. The visit of the U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz to India got canceled.

India has also initiated a detailed investigation of working conditions of the local citizens employed by the American institutions and families. It's a well known fact that a majority of staff employed by the U.S. diplomatic missions are using the labor of the Asian States citizens (in particular from India, Philippines, Thailand, etc.). Their wages are significantly lower than the wages of the U.S. citizens working at the same positions.

The U.S. authorities are fond of declaring "strategic partnerships" and "allied relations" with most any country in the world, since Washington is trying to strengthen its positions all over the globe. Particular attention in this rhetoric is paid to the Asian region, which is still unofficially regarded as "the third world". In order to achieve its goals "Big Brother" is using various strategies of manipulation, often financial ones - by providing loans and "aid" to the "friendly" countries. Most often than not such "assistance" is offered in the form of American arms since this would make a foreign state completely dependent on the United States. A kin reader may inquire for himself how many military agreements the U.S. has recently signed with such Asian "strategic allies" as Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. In exchange for such agreements Washington demands strict compliance of his "allies" with a number of political and legal requirements, including the one of providing Americans with special privileges and immunities. In case someone is to break this requirements the U.S. starts threatening him with stopping their "aid".

The most striking example - is the US negotiations with Afghanistan on the Bilateral Security Agreement. The U.S. pressures its Afghan colleagues to adopt it, since this agreement grants the U.S. military representatives immunity from prosecution which could come really handy. The U.S. soldiers are responsible for the deaths of hundreds of local civilians that were killed in drone attacks that were allegedly fighting terrorists and drug traffickers.

There's a truly appropriate question: why wouldn't the White House use drones in the American cities and villages in order to fight terrorists and drug traffickers? Or the use of these weapons is only appropriate on the foreign ground, where foreign citizens are dying and nobody is going to be held responsible for this?

In this regard, one can recall the arrest of a CIA contractor Raymond Davis in Pakistan that occurred in January 2011. He shot a local in the back and then fired two more rounds in the heads of two young men on a motorcycle who apparently were following him, since they were working for the Pakistani secret service - the ISI. The arrested enjoyed no diplomatic immunity and at the

moment of his detention he provided civil ID. However, the U.S. Embassy demanded Pakistan to release him, Raymond was freed from custody despite all the charges against him, under the pretext that he's an employee of the U.S. intelligence thus he "enjoys special immunity from prosecution"

It looks like the Washington devised some special kind of "immunity" for its own citizens while ignoring the rights of foreigners and the international law all together. Sadly, there's nothing to wonder about since the US has been providing the representatives of its intelligence services in Asia, and India with diplomatic immunities, even though they were not performing any diplomatic functions. These "happy few" are the employees of American interception and electronic monitoring centers (including in India), that are constantly watching the political leaders of Asia, the social life in these countries, thereby breaking universally recognized human rights, protection of which has been continually declared by senators and various U.S. policy makers.

As for the incident with Khobragade, the Indian Foreign Minister Sujatha Singh has recently warned the U.S. Ambassador Nancy Powell, that the relationships between the two countries can not go on as usual since Delhi requires apologies along with the withdrawal of all charges against the Indian diplomat. But the U.S. disregarded the demands of its "strategic partner", on January 9 Devyani Khobragade has been formally charged so she was forced to leave the United States.

**Vladimir Platov, expert on the Middle East, exclusively for the online magazine "New Eastern Outlook".**

## Vladimir Platov

29.12.2013 Column: Politics Region: Southern Asia

### India and the US - a Strategic Partnership?



President Obama has recently called India one of the main partners of the United States in the 21st century, he also noted that India as a partner is of vital strategic importance to the U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region and around the Globe. The United States is one of the leading trading partners of India: the volume of bilateral trade has increased in four and a half times over the last decade and it amounted to \$ 86 billion dollars in 2011. The Indian investments in the U.S. has been skyrocketing over the last five years, they grew from 227 million dollars in 2002 to 5 billion dollars today. But how sincere are those words about the strategic partnership of the two countries or is it yet another attempt to use some other state for the good of the US policy makers?

The India-US relations have suffered a major crisis on 12 December, when the U.S. authorities approved the arrest and detention of Devyani Khobragade. Devyani is a 39-year-old, a Deputy Consul General of India to New York, yet she had to undergo through a rather unpleasant procedure before her own daughter's eyes, she was taking to school. Despite the fact that the Indian Deputy Consul General had all the papers that entitled her to diplomatic immunity (she was an advisor to the Permanent Mission of India to the UN) with herself, she was handcuffed, taken to a local police station and strip searched. But obviously this wasn't enough for the local authorities so they decided to take Khobragade's DNA samples, as if she was a felon, and then she was finally sent to a camera with drug addicts and hardened criminals.

An arrest warrant issued by the U.S. Magistrate Judge Debra Freeman says that Devyani Khobragade is allegedly guilty of fraud in respect of her maid. Special agents assume she wasn't paying the latter the "right" amount of money, for this "felony" Khobragade may face up to 15 years in prison. Indian diplomat was released on bail of 250 thousand dollars only the next day.

The Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has voiced a protest in respect of this incident as the United States have deliberately violated the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, which specifies that the advisers to the UN enjoy "immunities from personal arrest or detention and from the seizure of their personal baggage".

In response to this unfriendly gesture Indian parliamentarians and high-profile officials refused to attend a meeting with the U.S. Congress delegation that was scheduled beforehand. Certain Indian lawmakers have voiced an idea of arresting American diplomats who have a homosexual orientation and seduce Indian citizens and cohabit with them, since they are "corrupting their moral principles». Yashwant Sinha the head of the opposing Indian People's Party proposed, in accordance with the recently restored Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code, to prosecute homosexual partners of American diplomats and to conduct show trials.

Following this incident, here was a number of measures that were employed by the Indian officials in regard of the U.S. Diplomats. All of them were requested to return personal identification papers that provided them with diplomatic immunity. The U.S. Embassy was deprived of special security passes that allowed privileged entrance to the local airports. American diplomats

were demanded to provide information on the salary rates of the Indians that are working in the embassy and the local American school , to make sure that they obey the local labour protection laws. In addition , the Indian side will carefully examine all the cases of employment of the U.S. diplomatic families members, since this kind of employment requires a special permit, but usually Americans violate these requirement in the better part of the countries they work in. On top of all the security barricades that were placed in front of the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, which is a common measure of protection against aggressive manifestations of the locals in all the Asian and the Middle Eastern American embassies, were removed.

The said incident has received a wide coverage in the Indian and foreign media. Various commentators and experts began to investigate the "strategic" nation of India- United States relations, citing numerous cases of neglect the U.S. government have shown towards India and its people.

A number of experts and analysts tend to mention the recent investigation the «The Hindu» magazine, that showed that India is one the main targets of the NSA. This agency has been collecting information on the Indian political leaders, scientific minds and intellectuals, by tapping their phones and reading their e-mails . This investigation shows that Americans intercept billions of messages that were sent over the Indian cellular networks and by the Internet. (March of 2013 alone shows a staggering number of 135 million intercepted messages). To date, the U.S. used two main programs for data collection : Boundless Informant and PRISM. First used to monitor phone conversations and the Internet networks in India , while PRISM gathered information using the capabilities of various U.S. tech giants .

Commentators also mentioning the role an American citizen David Coleman Headley played in the preparation of terrorist attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai in 2008. According to Indian journalists, the U.S. court has failed to provide Headley with an adequate punishment, even if fact that he cooperated with the prosecution is to be taken into consideration.

One can also remember the racist attitudes of certain American diplomats towards Indian citizens, the former show no signs of respect towards the representatives of ostentatious contempt for the individual members of Indian ethnic groups. An outrageous example of a such behavoir was shown by U.S. Vice - Consul Maureen Chao in August 2011, when she publicly called Tamils "dark and dirty".

In addition, many correspondents provide examples of hostile and discriminatory attitude of the U.S. officials towards the representatives of the Indian diplomatic missions to the United States. For example, in 2010 Indian ambassador to the U.S. Meera Shankar was searched in the Mississippi airport, despite the fact that she was enjoying full diplomatic immunity. Another representative of India, this time to the United Nations was also detained at an airport in the United States his he refused to remove his turban due to his religious believes (since he's a Sikh). In 2011, the daughter of the Indian vice-consul in New York Krittika Biswas was arrested and spent 28 hours in jail on the suspicion of "bullying" her teacher via email. And the list goes on .

One of the reasons for the recent Washington's assault on India, according to the expert opinion, is the eight years that has passed since the signing of a nuclear deal between the two countries. Over this period the U.S. nuclear companies tried to access the Indian market but the door was shutting in their face every time they knocked. The discontent about this fact was expressed in August of this year in a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry by the two influential U.S. senators - Mark Warner and John Cornyn - co-chairs of the Senate India Caucus.

Against such a background the parliamentary elections in India , scheduled for May 2014 , and the future struggle between the ruling party Indian National Congress and the favorite in this race - the nationalist "Bharatiya Janata Party" , which adheres to the anti-American position, many experts believe there will be hell to pay if the incidents like the latest one are to take place. Indian public opinion seems to be reconsidering the nature of Indian relations with the United States . It is clear that the "assault" on Devyani Khobragade will deepen the "strategic nature" of this partnership, despite the statement made by Salman Khurshidby, the Indian Foreign Minister on December 19, according to which: "the sensitive incident will not have a lasting effect on the close relations between the two countries ."

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