

GS Paper 2

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India and its relations with other countries

India and US

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India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a “global strategic partnership”.

They have shared democratic values and witnesses convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues.

India-U.S. bilateral cooperation is broad-based and multi-sectoral.

Recent Context

1) 21-24 June 2023---PM Modi's visit to US

The Prime Minister led the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations Headquarters and held bilateral talks with President Joe Biden in Washington.

The Joint Statement

The Joint Statement issued by both India and the United States has asserted a vision of the two nations as “**among the closest partners in the world- a partnership of democracies looking into the 21st century with hope, ambition, and confidence.**”

The Joint Statement asserted that “**no corner of human enterprise is untouched by the partnership between our two great countries, which spans the seas to the stars**”.

Agreements signed between India and the United States, as part of the India- U.S. Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership.

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed a “next-generation partnership” between the two countries.

1. Defence sector

- **Memorandum of understanding between GE Aerospace and HAL for the production of fighter jet engines for Light Combat Aircraft.**

- **Repair and service of US Navy ships**

The United States Navy has concluded with Larsen and Toubro Shipyard in Kattupalli (Chennai) a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) and is also concluding agreements with the Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai and the Goa Shipyard. These agreements will enable US Navy ships to undergo repair and service at Indian shipyards, in between their voyage.

- India aims at procuring armed **MQ-9B Sea Guardian UAVs**. These drones will be enhancing India's surveillance, intelligence, as well as reconnaissance abilities.
- The India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem **INDUS-X**, was launched with an aim to encourage collaboration between tech companies and start-ups of India and the United States.

2. Citizen-centric efforts

•Domestic Visa Renewal Program and Consulate Openings

The aim of the program is to organize the visa process and also potentially incorporate skilled visas such as the **L visas** and **H1b**.

3. Technology

•**Deliverables and Investments**

The visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to a wide array of deliverables across health, mobility, defense, mobility, and critical and emerging technology. The two leaders affirmed that technology is going to play a key role in strengthening the partnership. The inauguration of the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)** in January 2023 is seen as an important milestone between the two countries.

•**Micron Technology, Inc.**

Micron Technology Inc. is all set to make investments in a test facility and new chip assembly in the state of Gujarat, supported by the Gujarat government and the Central Government.

4. Space Co-operations between the two countries

State cooperation between the two countries was also fostered when India joined a framework for the purpose of space exploration and assented to a mission to International Space Station in the year 2024.

5.Strategic Trade Dialogue

U.S. President Biden and Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi committed to encouraging policies and incorporating regulations that help facilitate better technology sharing, co-production, and co-development opportunities between the industries of both countries

2) June 5 2023—Visit of US Secretary of Defence Llyod J. Austin to India

The two sides concluded a **roadmap for 'Defence Industrial Cooperation'** which shall guide the policy direction for the next few years.

Key Agreements made:

- India and the United States have agreed to initiate negotiations for a '**Security of Supply**' (SoS) **arrangement** (a bilateral or multilateral agreement which aims to ensure the availability and stability of critical supplies, particularly regarding defense and security.)
- '**Reciprocal Defence Procurement**' (RDP) **agreement** (to facilitate reciprocal procurement of defense items and promote cooperation in research, development, and production of defense equipment.)
- Capacity building, including **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** and strategic infrastructure development.
- Talks were made regarding **US-India Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)**

3) Visit of External Affairs Minister to the United States of America (September 18-28, 2022)

The foreign minister arrived in the US to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Shri S. Jaishankar met his US counterpart Antony Blinken as well.

The reason for his visit officially is to 'enable a high-level review of the multifaceted bilateral agenda and strengthen cooperation on regional and global issues to further consolidate the India-US strategic partnership.

4) April 2022----India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- Cooperation on outer space and cyberspace.
- Cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
- Launch of Defence Artificial Intelligence dialogue (joint cyber training and exercises.
- The US signalled that it would “continue to stand alongside” India to defend its sovereign interest, keeping into mind that China was constructing “dual-use infrastructure” along the border with India.

5) July 2021-----US Secretary of State , Antony Blinken visited India and mentioned that actions by India and the US will shape the 21st century. The visit reciprocates the visit by India's EAM to US in May 2021.

6) US and India had engagements in the side-lines G7 and G-20 meet.

These engagements manifests a shift in Indo US relations from being an “Estranged democracies”(Dennis Kux) (during cold war) to strategic partners (in the post cold war era).

US Asia Pivot policy.

Also earlier US adopted hyphenated approach between India and Pakistan rather than individual India- Pakistan policy. However, this approach witnessed a transformation under President Bush who initiated the policy of “dehyphenation”.

What could be the probable reasons for this shift of US policy towards India:

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Shift in the Nature of Indo-US Relations

- ❖ **2010---Strategic dialogue**
- ❖ **2015---Strategic and commercial dialogue**
- ❖ **2018---2+2 dialogue**
- ❖ **Feb 2020---Comprehensive global strategic partnersh**

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Areas of Cooperation:

1) Defence Cooperation

- **2005----**Indo US defence framework agreement for 10 years was concluded.
- **2012---**In order to increase the pace and quality of defence cooperation, the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) was formulated.
- **2016----**India was designated as a 'Major Defence Partner' by the United States.

India now has access to American bases from Djibouti in Africa to Guam in the Pacific. It can also access advanced communication technology used in US defence.

The two sides have also signed the three defence pacts - LEMOA, COMCASA & BECA agreements.

- ✓ **The LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement)**, signed in 2016, allows the militaries of both nations to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment (restoration) of supplies.
- ✓ **The COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement)**, signed in 2018 allows 'interoperability' between the two militaries through the transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India. It allows the sale and exchange of encrypted data and equipment.
- ✓ **The BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement)**, signed in 2020, is related to geo-spatial cooperation, which includes sharing classified information on maps and satellites for defence purposes

Defence purchases include C-17 and C-130J transport aircraft, P-8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and Harpoon missiles.

Both countries are in the advanced stages of negotiation for the sale of 24 MH-60 Seahawk multi-role naval helicopters.

2021 ----India and the United States had signed a Project Agreement (PA) for Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALUAV) under the ambit of the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI),

2) Indo US cooperation against China

The 19th century strategic thinker Mahan had prophesised that the future of the world in the 21st century would be decided on the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Thus the IOR and Indo Pacific hold great strategic relevance.

It is for this reason that India's position in South Asia makes it a natural partner of USA.

QUAD

3) Military Cooperation

Bilateral exercises held annually include **Malabar** (between the two Navies and also include Japan), **Cope-India** (Air Force), **Yudh Abhyas** (Army) and **Vajra Prahar** (Special Forces).

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4) Counter Terrorism and Internal Security

India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation is carried out through the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism.

Cooperation in counterterrorism involves:

- ✓ intelligence sharing,
- ✓ information exchange,
- ✓ operational cooperation and
- ✓ sharing of counter-terrorism technology and equipment.

Cyber security cooperation between India and the U.S. is carried out under the India-U.S. Cyber Framework signed in 2016.

5) Energy and Climate Change

PACE (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy)-----Under this the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Government of India have established the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC) to promote joint clean energy innovations, with a total joint funding from both Governments of US\$ 50 million.

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6) Civil Nuclear Cooperation

The bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was signed in October 2008.

U S. company – Westinghouse is in discussions with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for implementation of a project that envisages six AP 1000 reactors at Kovvada (A.P.).

Once implemented, the project would be among the largest of its kind.

7) Science and Technology/Space

- **2000----**The Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) was established by India and the U.S.
- **Areas of cooperation includes:**
 - ✓ cooperation in earth observation,
 - ✓ satellite navigation,
 - ✓ space science and exploration (India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation has been opened)
 - ✓ Mars exploration,
 - ✓ Heliophysics.
- **NISAR:** NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing an SUV-sized satellite called NISAR.

8) Indian Diaspora & Cultural Cooperation

9) US support to India on permanent membership in UN.

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Key Challenges

1) Economic Challenges

- Trade has been an irritant point between Indo US relations.
- US refers India as “tariff king” and accuses it for imposing high import duties.
- US formulated America First Policy under Former President Donald Trump on the economic dimension.

- In 2020, America withdrew special trade privileges granted to India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) which provides preferential, duty-free access for over \$6 billion worth of products exported from this country to the US. (*The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a USA trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.*) GSP was instituted on 1st January, 1976, by the Trade Act of 1974.

India in response imposed retaliatory tariffs on several American imports.

In return US approach the WTO against India.

- E-commerce policy and data localisation
- US demand for greater access to American manufacturing, agriculture and dairy products.
- The US government has also complained about India's complex customs clearance procedures, which according to them causes delays, increases costs and add to business uncertainty.

2) Political Challenges

- **US cap on H-1B visas**
- **US support to Pakistan**

US' Criticism of India's Democracy and society (through statements like latest one by former US President Obama or reports like International Religious Freedom Report 2023 and Human Rights Report on India 2021 by the US State Department on issues like , press, religious freedom, condition of the minorities in India and democracy.)

- **India's policy of multi alignment and engagement with US adversaries**
 - ✓ India's involvement of SCO and inclusion of Iran.
 - ✓ India's relation with Iran

- ✓ Continuous reproachment between India and Russia
 - India's dependence on Russian defence equipment.
 - India depend on import of crude oil supplies from Russia.
 - India's stand on Ukraine issue.
 - 2017--US Congress had passed the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). According to this Act, US could impose sanctions on any country indulging in procurement of weapons from a foreign so-called "rogue" government. This legislation was introduced to predominantly target Iran and Russia.
 - India's decision to buy S-400 Triumf long-range missiles from Russia, worth \$5.4 billion, further escalated the friction.

3) Issue of IPR

4) India's reluctance to ban Chinese firm Huawei to participate in the upcoming 5G trials

5) US' decision to exit from Afghanistan.

Way Forward

The Indian prime minister during his address to the joint session of the US Congress in June 2023 said-

“In the past few years, there have been many advances in AI — Artificial Intelligence. At the same time, there have been more momentous developments in another AI — America and India.”

This reflects the booming relation between India and USA in the past recent years.