

International Relations Class 24

16th April, 2024 at 1:00 PM

INDO- US RELATIONS (CONTINUES) (01:09 PM)

- Refer to the handout for more details.
- **Recent context**
- **November 2023-** Fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue concluded successfully in Delhi
- In the 2+2 Dialogue, foreign and Defence Minister ministers participated and discussed strategic and security issues.
- **21-24 June 2023-** PM Modi's visit to the US.
- The Prime Minister led the celebrations of the International Day of Yoga at the UN headquarters.
- **Agreements signed between India and the United States, as part of the India- US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership:**
- 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
- 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
- The inauguration of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).
- Micron Technology Inc. is all set to make investments in a test facility and new chip assembly in the state of Gujarat.
- 4) Space Cooperation
- 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 the International Space Station in the year 2024.
- **June 5, 2023- Visit of US Secretary of Defence**
- **Key Agreements made:**
- India and the United States have agreed to initiate negotiations for a 'Security of Supply' (SoS) arrangement.
- Reciprocal Defence Procurement' (RDP) agreement.
- **April 2022- India US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:**
- Cooperation in outer space and cyberspace
- Cooperation in Indo-Pacific
- Launch of Defence Artificial Intelligence dialogue (joint cyber training and exercises)

AREAS OF COOPERATION (01:51 PM)

- **Refer to the handout for more details.**
- **Defence Cooperation:**
- 2005- Indo-US defence framework agreement for 10 years was concluded.
- 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.
- Indo-US cooperation against China
- QUAD
- **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).
- **Counter Terrorism and Internal Security**
- India-U.S. counter-terrorism cooperation is carried out through the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism.
- **Energy and Climate Change-** PACE (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy)
- Civil Nuclear Cooperation- The bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was signed in October 2008.
- **Science and Technology/Space-**
- 2000- The Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) was established by India and the U.S.
- **NISAR:** NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing an SUV-sized satellite called NISAR.
- **Indian Diaspora & Cultural Cooperation-** *A huge Indian diaspora lives in the USA, especially skilled workers.*
- **US Support to India on Permanent Membership in U.N.**

KEY CHALLENGES (02:17 PM)

- **Refer to the handout for more details.**
- **Economic Challenges**
- Trade has been an irritant point between Indo-US relations.
- The US refers to India as the “tariff king” and accuses it of imposing high import duties.
- In 2020, America withdrew special trade privileges granted to India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)
- **Political Challenges**
- US cap on H-1B visas
- US support to Pakistan
- India's policy of multi-alignment and engagement with US adversaries
- India's involvement in SCO and inclusion of Iran.
- Continuous reproaching between India and Russia.
- India's dependence on Russian defence equipment
- 2017-US Congress passed the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).
- India's decision to buy S-400

Issue of IPR

India- UK Relations (02:53 pm)

- **Refer to the handout for more details.**
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island.
- **The trajectory of Indo-UK relations**
- 1950: India became part of the Commonwealth of Nations after becoming a republic.
- 2004: The India-UK partnership turned into a strategic one.
- 2010: The relations were upgraded to 'Enhanced Partnership for the Future.
- 2021: Conclusion of India UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The agreement also established a 2030 Roadmap for India- UK relations.
- **Recent Developments:**
- October 2022- Rishi Sunak became the 57th Prime Minister of the UK — the first person of Indian origin and the youngest British prime minister in 200 years.
- Proposed India-UK FTA
- Both India and the UK realise great potential in expanding bilateral economic exchanges. They have set an ambitious target to double this by 2030 from the current level of US\$31.4 billion (2022). In 2015, this was US\$19.4 billion. This is driven by this proposed India-UK FTA.
- **The proposed FTA:**
- Will help double bilateral trade by 2030.
- Will give a major fillip to Indian exports in labour-intensive sectors like Leather, Textile, Jewellery and processed Agri-products.

Despite key divergences between India and UK over issues like market accessibility, data protection and social security agreements, this trade deal would be win-win situation for both countries.

- **Key Issues in FTA talks**

- **Issues regarding UK:**

- 1) The UK demand for tariff reductions on British whisky and automobile exports to India.
- 2) Besides tariffs, the UK government is also pushing India to agree on a strong investment protection treaty.

- **Issues regarding India:**

- The Indian government has reportedly established certain 'red lines'- areas where it will not compromise.

- 1) Non-negotiable stance on clinical drug trial data
- 2) Data protection
- 3) Issue of temporary mobility of Indian workers and Student visas
- Significance of FTA for India and UK

- **Question-** There are areas of divergence, but an India-UK trade deal will be a win-win for both countries. Analyse.

- **Approach:**

- In the Introduction, we may mention Recent context or development.

- **Significance of this deal for the UK**

- Through this agreement, the UK aims to gain access to Indian markets for Whiskey, Premium cars, Dairy and legal services. Thus it would be a profitable deal for the UK

- **Significance of this deal for India**

- India is the third largest service provider to the UK and this deal would widen market access for Indian service firms.

- Within the New Education Policy and Skill India Mission, Indian students are getting technical and vocational training. These domestic policies could provide greater opportunities for Indian students to take benefit of education and jobs in the UK. However, in this regard, India needs to regulate VISA regulations with the UK.

- The recently launched programs by India such as the Ganga-Vilas cruise project, **Mumbai-Gandhi Nagar Vista** and **Golden Chariot** are a few avenues to increase tourism in India which would be important within service sector negotiations in FTA.

- **Win-Won for both countries**

- An FTA between India and UK makes sense especially when it aims to increase the trade volume to double by 2030.
- The deal overall will increase trade in Goods, Services and Investments.
- It will also boost the drug and Pharma sectors of both countries.
- Overall, this trade deal if finalised will prove to be another feather in the cap to the already established comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the UK.

- **Challenges**

- Bitter history and colonial past between two countries
- Challenges associated with India-UK FTA

- **Political Challenge-** Diverse stand by India and the UK on issues like the Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine conflict, reform of multilateral institutions like IMF and WTO

- Challenges concerning security especially keeping in mind the recent attack on the Indian High Commission and the rise of Khalistani terrorism outside India

- Rigidity regarding extradition treaty

- **Social challenges**
- Issues regarding alleged illegal immigration from India to the UK
- The issue regarding VISA entry
- The issue regarding the **totalisation agreement** on the social security sphere.
- **Conclusion**
- India should leverage the Indian diaspora which is the living bridge to exhibit its soft diplomacy thereby creating a strong Indo-UK relationship along with carrying forward the idea of a strategic partnership.

India- EU Relations (04:03 pm)

- **Refer to the handout for more details.**
- The European Union is a supranational political and economic union of 27 countries.
- Its genesis lies in the Maastricht Treaty of 1993.
- EURO is used as the official currency by 19 of these countries.
- **Que-** How India and EU are natural partners
- Common security threat in Indo-Pacific and IOR with regard to China and other like-minded countries and North Korea.
- EU considers India as a balancing wheel in the Indo-Pacific and a counterweight to China.
- EU is India's third largest trading partner and therefore crucial for India's export destinations.
- Both India and the EU emphasise the need for sustainable supply chains including medical supply chains, especially post-COVID. This means another common concern between the two actors is regarding global health.
- Both are also collaborating on the idea of a clean economy. The **Green Deal of the EU** with India emphasizes reorienting the world economy to become carbon neutral by the year 2050.
- Natural Convergence is witnessed regarding the common threat of Islamic radicalisation and terrorism.
- The above-mentioned factors make India and the EU natural partners.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS- INDIA-EU RELATIONS (TO CONTINUE), INDIA-RUSSIA RELATIONS