India-U.S. Relations

Overview:

India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a "global strategic partnership", based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. The emphasis placed by the new Government in India on development and good governance has created new opportunity to reinvigorate bilateral ties and enhance cooperation under the new motto — “Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go”, which was adopted following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first summit with President Barack Obama on 30 September 2014 in Washington DC.

Regular exchange of high level political visits has provided sustained momentum to bilateral cooperation, while the wide-ranging and ever-expanding dialogue architecture has established a long-term framework for India-U.S. engagement. Today, the India-U.S. bilateral cooperation is broad-based and multi-sectoral, covering trade and investment, defence and security, education, science and technology, cyber security, high-technology, civil nuclear energy, space technology and applications, clean energy, environment, agriculture and health. Vibrant people-to-people interaction and support across the political spectrum in both countries nurture our bilateral relationship.

Prime Minister's visit in September 2014:

Prime Minister Modi visited the U.S. on 26-30 September 2014. He held meetings with President Obama, met with members of the U.S. Congress and political leaders, including from various States and cities in the U.S., and interacted with members of President Obama's Cabinet. He also reached out to the captains of the U.S. commerce and industry, the American civil society and think-tanks, and the Indian-American community. A Vision Statement and a Joint Statement were issued during the visit.

Key outcomes of Prime Minister's visit include new mechanisms to enhance trade and investment, particularly in infrastructure; new modalities to implement cooperation in energy, including nuclear and renewable energy, and climate change; new initiatives in knowledge, education and skill development; new approaches to defence trade, security and counter-terrorism collaboration; and new areas of cooperation between India and the U.S. in third countries.

Other Major Exchanges in 2014:

In March 2014, U.S. Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz visited India for the Energy Dialogue. Soon after the inauguration of the new Government in India, U.S. Secretary of State Mr. John F. Kerry, U.S Commerce Secretary Ms. Penny Pritzker (in July 2014) and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mr. Chuck Hagel (in August 2014) visited India. The momentum of high-level exchanges was maintained by the visit of U.S. Trade Representative Mr. Michael Froman to India in November 2014 for the Trade Policy Forum, and that of U.S. President's Science Adviser Dr. John Holdren ---also in November 2014 --- for the meeting of the Ministerial Joint Commission on Science and Technology. From India, Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan (in June 2014) and MoS(Home) Shri Kirin Rijiju (September 2014) have visited the U.S.
EAM Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited the U.S. in September-October 2014 in connection with the UNGA and also as part of Prime Minister's delegation to the U.S. National Security Adviser interacted with key U.S. interlocutors in the fields of foreign policy, defence and security during his visit to the U.S. in October 2014. There have been numerous visits of parliamentarians and senior officials in both directions.

**India-U.S. Dialogue Architecture:**

There are more nearly 40 bilateral dialogue mechanisms between the two governments. The annual Strategic Dialogue at EAM level (last round held in July 2014 in New Delhi) focuses on bilateral relations along five pillars of mutual interest, namely: Strategic Cooperation; Energy and Climate Change, Education and Development; Economy, Trade and Agriculture; Science and Technology; and Health and Innovation. In addition, there are Ministerial-level dialogues involving home (Homeland Security Dialogue), finance (Financial and Economic Partnership), commerce (Trade Policy Forum), HRD (Higher Education Dialogue), Science & Technology (Joint Commission Meeting on S&T) and energy (Energy Dialogue).

**Strategic Dialogue:**

India and the U.S. launched a Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister and the U.S. Secretary of State in July 2009, which focuses on bilateral relations along five pillars of mutual interest, namely: Strategic Cooperation; Energy and Climate Change, Education and Development; Economy, Trade and Agriculture; Science and Technology; and Health and Innovation. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj co-chaired the fifth India-US Strategic Dialogue on 31 July 2014 in New Delhi with visiting U. S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and comprehensively reviewed the state of bilateral relations. The high-powered U. S. delegation included Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman, Under Secretary of Homeland Security Francis X. Taylor and Special Envoy for Climate Change in the Department of State Todd Stern.

**Strategic Consultations:**

There have been regular contacts at political and official levels on bilateral, regional and global issues. Foreign Office Consultations, at the level of Foreign Secretary of India and US Undersecretary for Political Affairs, are an important part of the dialogue structure. The last round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Washington D.C. in December 2013. India and U.S. have in recent years instituted structured dialogues covering East Asia, Central Asia and West Asia, and have agreed on strategic consultations covering Latin America, Africa and the Indian Ocean Region. India and the U.S. also have a trilateral with Japan (sixth meeting took place in New Delhi in December 2014) and a trilateral with Afghanistan (last meeting held in 2013). Matters relating to international security and disarmament, multilateral export control regimes are reviewed under the Strategic Security Dialogue, while issues relating to high-technology trade are discussed in the India-U.S. High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG); both these groups, led by Foreign Secretary of India and her counterparts in the US Departments of State and Commerce respectively, last met in November 2014. in New Delhi. The two have agreed to work closely for India’s phased entry into the global export control regimes to strengthen global non-proliferation, arms control, as well as nuclear security.
Civil Nuclear Cooperation:

The bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was finalized in July 2007 and signed in October 2008. During the visit of President Obama to India in November 2010, the two Governments announced completion of all steps to begin implementation of the Civil Nuclear Agreement. U.S. nuclear companies (Westinghouse and GE Hitachi) are in consultations with NPCIL to commence commercial cooperation in this area. NPCIL and Westinghouse signed a "preliminary contract" in September 2013 for a nuclear power project in Gujarat. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US in September 2014, the two sides set up a Contact Group for advancing the full and timely implementation of the India-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, and to resolve pending issues. The Group had its first two meetings in December 2014 and January 2015 respectively.

Defence Cooperation:

Defence relationship has emerged as a major pillar of India-U.S. strategic partnership with the signing of 'New Framework for India-U.S. Defense Relations' in 2005 and the resulting intensification in defence trade, joint exercises, personnel exchanges, collaboration and cooperation in maritime security and counter-piracy, and exchanges between each of the three services. A Joint Declaration on Defence Cooperation issued in 2013 highlighted the deepening of bilateral defence relations. The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country. An Indian Navy ship took part in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise in 2014 for the first time. Bilateral dialogue mechanisms in the field of defence include Defence Policy Group (DPG), Defence Joint Working Group (DJWG), Defence Procurement and Production Group (DPPG), Senior Technology Security Group (STSG), Joint Technical Group (JTG), Military Cooperation Group (MCG), and Service-to-Service Executive Steering Groups (ESGs). During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the U.S. in September 2014, it was decided to renew the 2005 'New Framework for India-US Defence Relationship' in 2015.

Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from U.S. Defence has crossed over US$ 10 billion. India and the United States have established a Defence Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) aimed at simplifying technology transfer policies and exploring possibilities of co-development and co-production to invest the defence relationship with strategic value. The Working Group of the DTTI had its first meeting in September 2014. The two sides have created a Task Force under the DTTI to expeditiously evaluate and decide on unique projects and technologies which would have a transformative impact on bilateral defence relations and enhance India's defence industry and military capabilities.

Counter-terrorism and internal security:

Cooperation in counter-terrorism has seen considerable progress with intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology and equipment. A new India-US Counter-Terrorism Cooperation Initiative was signed in 2010 to expand collaboration on counter-terrorism, information sharing and capacity building. Functional level cooperation on counter-terrorism is being pursued through a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism that was established in January 2000. A Homeland Security Dialogue was announced during
President Obama's visit to India in November 2010 to further deepen operational cooperation, counter-terrorism technology transfers and capacity building. Two rounds of this Dialogue have been held, in May 2011 and May 2013, with six Sub-Groups steering cooperation in specific areas. In December 2013, India-U.S Police Chief Conference on homeland security was organized in New Delhi.

Trade and Economic:

Bilateral trade between India and the US reached US$ 63.7 billion in 2013, registering a growth of about 1.7% over the previous year. Indian exports accounted for US$ 41.8 billion; whereas, US exports stood at US$ 21.9 billion. India - U.S. bilateral merchandise trade during the period January-October 2014 amounted to $55.86 billion with a trade surplus of $20.97 million in favour of India. During this period, India's merchandise exports to the U.S. grew by 6.8% from $35.97 billion in the corresponding period in 2013 to $38.42 billion, while US exports of merchandise to India fell by 5.36% from $18.43 billion to $17.44 billion. During the year 2012 (the latest year for which complete data on services trade is available), bilateral trade in services totalled $58.76 billion, of which U.S exports of services to India amounted to $30.17 billion and India’s exports of services to the U.S. added up to $28.59 billion. During Prime Minister's visit to the U.S. in September 2014, the two sides set a target to increase bilateral trade in goods & services to $500 billion.

According to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S direct investments in India is estimated at $24 billion. As per Indian official statistics, the cumulative FDI inflows from the US from April 2000 to September 2014 amounted to about US$ 13.19 billion constituting nearly 6 % of the total FDI into India, making the U.S. the sixth largest source of foreign direct investments into India. In recent years, growing Indian investments into the US, has been a novel feature of bilateral ties. More than 65 large Indian corporations, including Reliance Industries Limited, Essar America, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro and Piramal, have together invested about US$ 17 billion in the U.S.

There are several dialogue mechanisms to strengthen bilateral engagement on economic and trade issues, including a Ministerial level Economic and Financial Partnership (last met in Washington in October 2013) and a Ministerial Trade Policy Forum (last met in New Delhi in November 2014). India and U.S. are negotiating a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). Both countries have committed to work through Trade Policy Forum to promote mutually attractive business/investment environment. A high-level IP Working Group has been established as part of Trade Policy Forum to foster innovation led economic growth. There exists a Commercial Dialogue (with tenure until March 2016) which provides the framework for both Governments and the private sector to collaborate on trade and commercial issues of mutual interest with a view to facilitating trade and investment opportunities across various sectors. For greater involvement of private sector in discussion on issues involving trade and investment, the bilateral India-US CEO’s Forum was reconstituted in 2009 and had its last round of meeting in July 2013 in Washington D.C.

During Prime Minister Modi's visit in September 2014, it was decided to establish an India-US Investment initiative, with a special focus on facilitating FDI, portfolio investment, capital market development and financing of infrastructure. The newly established US-India Infrastructure Collaboration Platform seeks to deploy cutting edge
U.S technologies to meet India’s infrastructure needs. US firms will be lead partners in
developing Allahabad, Ajmer and Vishakhapatnam as Smart Cities. USAID will serve as
knowledge partner for the Urban India Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) alliance
with to help leverage business and civil society (Gates Foundation) to facilitate access
to clean water, hygiene and sanitation in 500 Indian cities.

Energy and Climate Change:

The U.S.-India Energy Dialogue was launched in May 2005 to promote trade and
investment in the energy sector, and held its last meeting in March 2014 in New Delhi. Besides five existing working groups in oil & gas, coal, power and energy efficiency, new technologies & renewable energy and civil nuclear co-operation, another working
group on 'sustainable development' was added recently to the Energy Dialogue.

Investment by Indian companies like Reliance, Essar and GAIL in the U.S.
natural gas market is ushering in a new era of India-U.S. energy partnership. The US
Department of Energy has so far given its approval for export of LNG from seven
liquefaction terminals in the US, to countries with which the US does not have a free
trade agreement (FTA) - with two of these five terminals, the Indian public sector entity,
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has off-take agreements, totaling nearly 6 million
metric tonnes per annum (MTPA). These terminals are expected to be complete and in
a position to export cargoes by late 2016/early 2017.

As a priority initiative under the PACE (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy),
the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Government of India have established
the Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center (JCERDC) designed to
promote clean energy innovations by teams of scientists from India and the United
States, with a total joint committed funding from both Governments of US$ 50 million.
The Center has funded three research projects, in the areas of solar energy, second
generation bio-fuels and energy efficiency of buildings.

India and the US are advancing cooperation and dialogue on climate change
through a high-level Climate Change Working Group, which had its first meeting in July
2014. In November 2014, an MoU between US EXIM Bank and Indian Renewable
Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has been concluded to provide US$ 1 billion in
financing for India’s transition to a low-carbon economy. A new U.S.-India Partnership
for Climate Resilience has been agreed to, in order to advance capacity for climate
adaptation planning, as also a new U.S.-India Climate Fellowship Program to build long-
term capacity to address climate change-related issues.

Education:

Under the Singh-Obama Knowledge Initiative launched in 2009, cooperation in
education sector has been made an integral part of the strategic partnership between
the two countries. The Fulbright program was renewed in 2008 as the Nehru-Fulbright
Program, with enhanced mandate and joint funding, to provide more student and
scholar exchange grants. About 100,000 Indian students are pursuing advanced
degrees in the US. The Higher Education Dialogue, which has had four meetings since
2011 (last in November 2014 in New Delhi), laid out the road map for promoting
strategic institutional partnerships, deepening collaboration in research and
development, fostering partnerships in vocational education and focusing on junior faculty development.

India is learning from the U.S. experience in community colleges in order to meet our demands for skill-development. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between All India Council for Technical Education and the American Association of Community Colleges in June 2013 for co-operation in setting up community colleges in India. It has been agreed to collaborate with U.S. institutions in the area of Technology Enabled Learning and Massive Open On-line Courses (MOOCs) to extend the reach of education in India. During Prime Minister Modi's visit in September 2014, the two countries decided to establish the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) — under which India will invite and host upto 1000 American academics each year to teach in Indian universities at their convenience, and to collaborate in establishing an Indian Institute of Technology in India.

Space:

A bilateral Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation provides a forum for discussion on joint activities in space, including (i) exchange of scientists; (ii) OCM2, INSAT3D collaboration; (iii) Cooperation on Mars mission; (iv) nano-satellites; (v) carbon /ecosystem monitoring and modeling; (vi) feasibility of collaboration in radio occultation: (vii) Earth Science Cooperation: (viii) international space station; (ix) global navigation satellite systems; (x) L&S band SAR; (xi) space exploration cooperation; (xii) space debris mediation. NASA and ISRO signed an agreement for activities related to India's Mars Orbiter Mission and the Charter for ISRO-NASA Mars Working Group. In September 2014, the Implementing Agreement for Cooperation on the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission was also signed.

Science & Technology (S&T):

The India-U.S. S&T cooperation has been steadily growing under the framework of U.S.-India Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005. There is an Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Joint Commission, co-chaired by the Science Advisor to U.S. President and Indian Minister of S&T. The Joint Commission has developed an action plan for 2012-2014 that includes joint projects, joint workshops, exchange of visits, and virtual networking in various disciplines. The U.S. attended as the partner country at the Technology Summit 2014 at New Delhi.

In 2000, both the governments endowed the India-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) to facilitate mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in science, engineering, and health. Over the past decade, the IUSSTF has facilitated more than 12,000 interactions between Indian and U.S. scientists, supported over 250 bilateral workshops and established over 30 joint research centers. The U.S.-India Science &Technology Endowment Fund, established in 2009, under the Science and Technology Endowment Board promote commercialization of jointly developed innovative technologies with the potential for positive societal impact.

Collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has been strengthened under the 2008 MOU on Earth Observations and Earth Sciences. A "monsoon desk" has been established at the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Prediction. India's
contribution of $250 million towards Thirty-Meter Telescope Project and Indian Initiative in Gravitational Observations (IndiGO) with U.S. LIGO Laboratory are examples of joint collaboration to create a world-class research facilities.

Health Sector:

Under the 2010 U.S.-India Health Initiative, four working groups have been organized in the areas of Non-Communicable Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Strengthening Health Systems and Services, and Maternal and Child Health. In order to build up the disease surveillance and epidemiological capacity in India, Global Disease Detection-India Centre was established in 2010 and an Epidemic Intelligence Service program launched in Oct 2012. U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Indian Council of Medical Research, and India’s Department of Biotechnology have developed a robust relationship in the biomedical and behavioral health sciences, research related to HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, eye disease, hearing disorders, mental health, and low-cost medical technologies.

People to people ties:

The 3-million-plus strong Indian American community is an important ethnic group in the U.S., accounting for about 1% of the total population in the country. Indian American community includes a large number of professionals, business entrepreneurs and educationalists with increasing influence in the society. With two Indian Americans occupying high level posts of Governor and several representatives of the people, the Indian Diaspora has assimilated into their adopted country and is acting as a catalyst to forge closer and stronger ties between India and USA.

Cultural cooperation:

Cultural cooperation between India and the U.S. is rich and manifest in diverse ways. Apart from the India-focused educational programs at the Universities and educational institutions, many private institutions teach Indian cultural arts. In addition to the website ‘www.indianembassy.org’ and social media channels, the Embassy provides updated information on various aspects of India that are relevant to the United States, through its various publications, including "India: Partner in Growth", a weekly newsletter focusing on business and strategic matters, and "India Live", a monthly newsletter providing information on initiatives of the Embassy and the Consulates, major developments in India, and culture and tourism.

Cultural activities by the Embassy are grouped in to Reading India Series (featuring events related to Indian authors and writings), Performing Indian Series (featuring music, dance and theatre), Beholding India Series (film screening, art and photo exhibitions), Understanding India Series (featuring lectures on comprehensive and cross-sectional views of India), and Young India Series (cultural events catering specifically to younger audience).

Media:

Indian media is present in strength in the U.S., including PTI, IANS, Times of India, The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, Outlook, Pioneer and other Indian media organizations, which have correspondents based in Washington D.C. and other major
cities. The TV channels represented in the U.S. include NDTV, Times Now, CNN-IBN and Asia TV. Reflecting the growing relevance of Internet based information dissemination, correspondents from websites like Rediff.com, Firstpost.com based here also cover the India-U.S. relations.

Useful Resources:

Website : [https://www.indianembassy.org/](https://www.indianembassy.org/)
Facebook : [https://www.facebook.com/IndembassyUSA](https://www.facebook.com/IndembassyUSA)
Twitter : [https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyUS](https://twitter.com/IndianEmbassyUS)
Youtube : [https://www.youtube.com/user/indiausrelations](https://www.youtube.com/user/indiausrelations)
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