

## Indo-US Relation: An Overview

**Balvinder Singh<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract:**

*The United States and India are enjoying increasingly close bilateral relations. India-U.S. bilateral relations have developed into a "global strategic partnership", which is based on shared democratic values and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional and global issues. Which shows the transformation of the two countries past relationship. After the end of cold war the change in bilateral relation of India and US was resulted from a convergence of structural, domestic, and individual leadership factors. Good governance of both the countries created opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties. Today, the India-U.S. bilateral cooperation is broad-based and multi-sectorial, covering trade and investment, defense and security, education, science and technology, space technology and applications, clean energy, environment, agriculture and health. The Energetic interaction of people-to-people and support across the political spectrum in both countries cultivate good bilateral relationship. This paper study the main objective and highlight the issues which affects the relation of both countries.*

**Keywords:** India-US, Bilateral Ties, Relationship, Cold War

### **Authors:**

1. Government Arts & Sports College, Jalandhar, Punjab, INDIA

## Introduction

The two countries enjoying amazing levels of cooperation in the economic, strategic, and diplomatic spheres. The United States and India shares all-time high relationship.

In Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's words, India and the U.S. "share the common goal of making this one of the principal relationships of our countries" And Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns predicts that "within a generation many Americans may view India as one of our two or three most important strategic partners."

The relation of India and U.S. have not always been so cozy. The closeness of two countries truly represent a major transformation of their past relationship. Both the countries shared a number of important interests and values, their relationship was historically characterized more by doubt and bitterness than by cooperation. **(Kapur and Ganguly, 2007)**. In the Era of Cold War (1945-1990) the relations of India and US have gone through lots of up and downs.

In 1962 during India- china war the US President Kennedy, had supported India, on the other side in 1965 and in 1971 during Indo-Pak war the US had criticized India's stand against Pakistan.

In 1974, when India conducted nuclear explosion US with other counterpart (western European countries) imposed strong economic sanctions against India.

In cold war the ideological clashes of two superpowers (US and USSR), US was strategically in opposite camp to India. Further the defense relation of US and Pakistan-US and strategic relation of India-USSR had weakened the Indo-US bilateral relations. Moreover, India's non-alignment policy was not liked by the US **(Balwinder Singh, 2017)**

In 2000, US President Clinton visited India and the dialogue of Vajpayee-Clinton had changed dynamics of Indo-US historic relationship. Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee called Indo-US relations as a 'natural ally'. The easy going defense relation was started by the Clinton administration but the serious steps are taken by the Bush administration towards US defense cooperation with India. The new height of relation was touched by Indo-US during the Bush era and Bush Junior called pro-India President in US history. India occupied most important position in US foreign policy when the Bush administration considered India as an emerging economic and military power.

## Indo-US defense and strategic relationship in 21st Century

In the early phase of 21st century, the US policy shift towards India. The new doors of cooperation are opened between India and the United States. In 2000 the US President Clinton visited India which was a new beginning for two countries. On 11 September 2001 the terrorist attack on US promote India to make the outstanding offer of bases to US for cooperation in defense and strategic field. Due to mutual strategic interest Both India and U.S were coming closer. In 2000, a strategic partnership between the two countries was signed by both the leaders when Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited the United States and called it the next steps in strategic partnership. These efforts included bilateral collaboration in civilian nuclear technology and military to military cooperation.

An outstanding beginning of bilateral relation was started In January 2004, when India and U.S signed the 'New Steps in Strategic Partnership'. In United States South Asia foreign policy a special preference was given to India. Indo-US defense and strategic cooperation had huge potential to maintain status-quo in international water and combat rise of China in Indo-pacific region. These reasons improved Indo-US bilateral relations time to time.

## Trade and Economic:

In 2014 India and the US have set up a bilateral Investment Initiative which mainly focus on facilitating FDI, portfolio investment, capital market development and financing of infrastructure. To meet India's infrastructure needs. U.S.-India Infrastructure Collaboration Platform has been set up to deploy cutting edge U.S technologies. In developing Allahabad, Ajmer and Vishakhapatnam as Smart Cities U.S. firms will be lead partners. In India's smart city programme our count our country welcomed the engagement of U.S. private sector. For the Urban India Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) USAID will serve as knowledge partner to help leverage business and civil society (Gates Foundation) to facilitate access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation in 500 Indian cities.

To strengthen bilateral engagement on economic and trade issues several mechanisms, a Ministerial level Economic and Financial Partnership and a Ministerial Trade Policy Forum was included. For greater involvement of private sector in discussion on issues involving trade and investment, there is a bilateral India-U.S. CEO's Forum, which held its last meeting in August 2016 in New Delhi coinciding with the

Strategic & Commercial Dialogue. In 2017 an encouraging growth is showing in bilateral merchandise trade. During the first three months, bilateral merchandise trade stood at \$17.2 billion as compared to \$16.2 billion during the corresponding period in 2016. Of this, India's exports to the US were \$11.4 billion and India's imports from the US were \$5.8 billion. The trade deficit during Jan-Mar 2017 also declined from \$6.4 billion in 2016 to \$5.6 billion in Jan-Mar 2017.

### **Science & Technology (S&T):**

U.S.-India Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005 under this agreement the India-U.S. Science and technology cooperation has been steadily growing. There is an Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Joint Commission, co-chaired by the Science Advisor to U.S. President and Indian Minister of Science and technology.

In 2000, to facilitate mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in science, engineering, and health both the governments endowed the India-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF). 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. The Technology Summit 2014 was attended by U.S. as a partner country at New Delhi.

### **Energy and Climate Change:**

India and the U.S. are advancing cooperation and dialogue on climate change through a high-level Climate Change Working Group and a Joint Working Group on Hydrofluorocarbon. In November 2014, U.S. EXIM Bank and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) signed a MoU which was concluded to provide US\$ 1 billion in financing for India's transition to a low-carbon economy. To advance capacity for climate adaptation planning a new U.S.-India Partnership for Climate Resilience has been agreed and a new U.S.-India Climate Fellowship Program to build long-term capacity to address climate change-related issues. In June 2016, the two sides announced finalization of a package to provide concessional finance to support clean energy projects on track, to coordinate U.S. Government efforts on clean energy investment in India jointly with leading Indian financial institutions, and to provide liquidity to small scale renewable energy investors.

### **Civil Nuclear Cooperation:**

The Indo-U.S. bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement was finalized in July 2007 and in October 2008 it was signed. In September 2014, when Prime Minister Modi's visit to the U.S. To resolve pending issues Contact Group for advancing the full and timely implementation of the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement set up. Culminating a decade of partnership on civil nuclear issues, the two sides have started the preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, and Westinghouse are in talks toward finalizing the contractual arrangements, and addressing related issues.

### **People to people ties:**

The 3.5-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. The Indian Migration has integrated into their adopted country and is acting as a catalyst to forge closer and stronger ties between India and the U.S. 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. In June 2016 an MOU has been signed to facilitate India's joining of the Global Entry Programme for expedited immigration for eligible Indian citizens at U.S. airports.

### **Conclusion**

The starting relation of Indo-U.S is not so convenient to go back deep in the records of the past which has evolved and taken shape through various up and down. Since the early phase of 21st century, the Indo-US strategic relationship is evolving at greater pace and a major transformation was seen. It appears highly likely that in strategic, political, security, defense and economic terms, relations between India and the USA will continue their upward trajectory. At the bilateral level, both sides have identified key areas of cooperation in the fields of defense, technology and maritime and space etc. which will help in future to tackle black swans. At multilateral level both countries support each other, US has been supportive of India's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council and four export control regime. Therefore we can say that the relation of India with U.S. will grow continuously and An India- United States relationship of maturity, substance and strength can give a major impact on the emerging world order in this century.



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