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India-United States Relations: Implications for China

Aarif

Introduction

India and the United States are the world's two most powerful democratic courtiers. The United States is the world's oldest modern democratic country, while India is the world's largest democratic country, and any positive cooperation between the two great democracies is certain to usher in a new world order and balance, promising peace and tranquilly, particularly in the volatile South China Sea and Asia-Pacific region. It will also contribute to the world's peacekeeping efforts.

India's foreign policy will always be shaped by its connections with other countries. India-US relations are one such key international relationship. Relations between India and the United States have grown more complex, encompassing trade, defence and security, education, science and technology, civil nuclear energy, space technology and applications, the environment, and health. People-to-people connections between the two countries give this bilateral relationship even more vigour and power. Regular meetings at the political and governmental levels have taken place, with a wide-ranging debate on bilateral, regional, and global concerns. Based on shared democratic ideals and increasing convergence of interests on bilateral, regional, and global concerns, India-US bilateral ties have evolved into a "global strategic partnership." With the motto of "Chalein Saath Saath: Forward Together We Go" and "Sanjha Prayas, Sab ka Vikas" of the Government of India, this is an opportunity to revitalize bilateral relations and strengthen cooperation, focusing on development and good governance. I used it. At the first two summit meetings between Prime Minister Modi and President Obama in June 2016, joint summit-level statements entitled "India and the United States" were issued in September 2014 and January 2015, respectively.

The widespread and ever-expanding dialogue architecture provides a long-term framework for the involvement of India and the United States,

and the regular exchange of high-level political visits provides a sustainable impetus for bilateral cooperation. India-US bilateral cooperation is now comprehensive and multi-sectoral, encompassing commerce and investment, defence and security, education, science and technology, cyber security, high-technology, civil nuclear energy, space technology and applications, renewable energy, agriculture, and health. Our bilateral relationship is nourished by vibrant people-to-people connection and support from across the political spectrum in both nations.

The month of October 2020 will be remembered as a watershed moment in India-US ties. On the 26th and 27th of October, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper visited India for the third 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the two nations. They met with S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, their Indian equivalents. During their visit to New Delhi, top American officials met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. On October 12-14, Assistant Secretary of State Stephen E. Vagan visited India to lay the foundation for a 2 + 2 dialogue.

Historical Context

The historical ties between the United States and India may be traced back to 1492, when Christopher Columbus found America while looking for a new route to India. Meanwhile, post-independence Indian official and official communication began. Some American writers began to appreciate India's cultural legacy in the mid-nineteenth century. "The writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and the Sanskritists Hopkins, Lanman, and Whitney, as well as the Sanskritists Hopkins, Lanman, and Whitney, helped infuse in 19th century Americans an appreciation for India's cultural history, Stephen N. Hay writes. Emerson and Thoreau had a great influence on Gandhi and Nehru. P.C. Majumdar, the leader of the Brahma Samaj, talked in numerous American towns in 1883, and in 1893, he and Swami Vivekanand received plaudits from the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, as well as from many smaller organisations interested in Indian religious thinking. "Sisters and Brothers of America" Vivekanand spoke first, to thunderous applause. Harvard University and Columbia University both offered him chairs in Oriental Philosophy.

The formal relationship between India and the United States began during World War II. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the United States realized it needed India's help in the war effort. One of the main issues that compelled the Roosevelt

Administration to pay attention to the Indian political situation was the strategic relevance of India as a base of operations against Japan. The United States agreed to swap diplomatic staff with India and the United Kingdom in the summer of 1941. Thomas H. Wilson was named the first United States Commissioner in New Delhi in October 1941. India's Agent General in Washington was named Sir Girja Shanker Bajpai. He was supposed to function under the direction of the British Embassy. Pakistan attacked and seized a major portion of Jammu and Kashmir before it joined the Indian Union. On January 1, 1948, Nehru brought the issue to the UN Security Council's attention. At the United Nations, the UK and the US were able to turn Pakistan's aggression against India into an Indo-Pakistani issue. The US remained deafeningly silent in response to India's criticism. Instead of naming Pakistan the aggressor, the American representative emphasized the importance of resolving the conflict through a plebiscite in Kashmir. Pakistan was inundated by American arms during the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War. This finally resulted in a large-scale conflict between the two countries. Pakistan openly employed American-made weaponry such as Patton tanks and Sabre jets. Pakistan planned to enlist the assistance of SEATO and CENTO in their fight against India. Despite the fact that Pakistan was the aggressor in the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, the United States never truly denounced it. It, on the other hand, equated India and Pakistan while condemning the abuse of the armaments it provided. The United States took a partisan stance and supported Pakistan in the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, which ended in the establishment of Bangladesh. First and foremost, the US tried to safeguard Pakistan's interests by attempting to obtain a cease-fire through the UN Security Council. Following the US government's decision to relax a ten-year prohibition on the sale of deadly armaments to South Asia in 1975, Indo-US ties suffered a blow. India reacted angrily, cancelling the visit of its External Affairs Minister to the United States. The United States' criticism of India's declaration of emergency in June 1975 was also opposed by India.

Manmohan Singh, India's Finance Minister, began the liberalization of the Indian economy in 1991, attracting major international economic powers, notably the United States, to India. After the Cold War, the United States took a fresh approach to India because of its economic needs and geopolitical relevance in South Asia. Narsimha Rao visited the US in 1994. Bill Clinton visited India in March 2000, while Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited the United States in September 2000. George W. Bush succeeded Clinton as President of the United States in January 2001, and he sought a positive relationship with India. Between July

1998 and September 2000, 10 rounds of negotiations were held between Jaswant and Talbott, the two nations' older foreign policy officials, to begin the basis for new and enhanced Indo-United States collaboration. The United States reacted angrily to India's nuclear tests in May 1998, causing a short halt in the healing Indo-US relationship and the installation of a slew of new US restrictions on India. However, as Christina B. Rocca, U.S. Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, noted, India's generous offer of assistance to the United States in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States was a splendid act of solidarity with the American people at a time of great need. President Clinton visited India on March 21-25, 2000, the first U.S. Presidential visit to India after a gap of 22 years. On March 2, 2006, George W. Bush and Manmohan Singh signed a Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in New Delhi after being initiated between two leaders on civil nuclear cooperation at the Washington Summit in July 2005. Did US President Barack Obama is hosting an inaugural visit to India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Despite its symbolic importance, this trip does not make a significant breakthrough in bilateral relations. Prime Minister Modi will visit the United States for the first time with the aim of attracting investment and strengthening the strategic partnership between the United States and India.

Key Areas of India-US Relations

During the July 2009 visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to India, a "strategic dialogue" was launched aimed at improving bilateral cooperation in several areas. The first round of the Strategic Dialogue took place in June 2010 in Washington, DC, with the second round taking place in July 2011 in New Delhi. The Indian mission was led by the Minister of External Affairs, while the US delegation was led by the Secretary of State. In June 2012, the Strategic Dialogue will have its third conference in Washington.

Defence Cooperation

The "New Framework for India-US Defense Cooperation," which was extended for a ten-year period in 2015, governs India-US defence cooperation. The defence partnership was classified as a Major Defense Partnership (MDP) in 2016. The MDP acknowledges a common goal of establishing a comprehensive, long-term, and mutually beneficial defence collaboration. India was elevated to Tier-1 of the US Department of Commerce's Strategic Trade Authorization license exemption on July 30, 2018. The Defense Policy Group (DPG), led by the Defense Secretary

and Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), offers a forum for a thorough examination of defence conversations and methods. The most recent DPG was held in August 2019 in Washington, D.C. The 10th Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) conference was conducted virtually on September 15, 2020, and was co-chaired by Secretary of Defense (Defense Production) and Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment). The DTTI Industry Collaboration Forum (DICF) and the DTTI Inter Agency Task Force (DIATF) both had virtual meetings in 2020. In August of this year, the 4th Maritime Security Dialogue (MSD) took place. The Military Collaboration Group, three Executive Steering Groups (ESGs) for military-to-military cooperation, the Joint Technology Group, and the Senior Technology Security Group are among the other structures (STSG). Defense purchases from the United States have been steadily increasing over the previous decade. Since 2008, India has spent roughly US\$ 21 billion on defence equipment from the US. The Defense Production and Procurement Group keeps track of defence procurement operations; the most recent meeting was in August 2019.

Trade & Economic Relations

The fast developing economic and business ties between India and the United States are a significant aspect of their multifaceted alliance. The United States is India's second-largest commercial partner and a big buyer of our goods and services. In 2019, bilateral trade in goods and services was US\$ 146 billion. The bilateral hydrocarbon trade between India and the United States has increased significantly, reaching US\$ 9.2 billion in 2019-20.

Figure 1: India-US Bilateral Trade, Source: US Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Census

in US\$ million

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
India's Exports to US						
1.Merchandise	44,783	46,024	48,549	54,282	57,694	51,190
2.Services	24,610	26,177	28,201	28,874	29,738	25,841
Total	69,393	72,201	76,750	83,156	87,432	77,031
U.S. Exports to India						

According to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, India attracted the largest ever foreign direct investment of USD 81.72 billion in fiscal year 2020-21. With inflows of USD 13.82 billion in 2020-21, the United States surpassed Mauritius as the second largest source of foreign direct investment into India. One of the top five investment locations for Indian FDI is the United States. According to a CII survey (June 2020), Indian companies employ nearly 125,000 people in the United States, with tangible investments totaling more than US\$ 22 billion in industries such as pharmaceuticals and life sciences, telecommunications, aerospace and defence, financial services, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, design and engineering, automotive, food and agriculture, energy, and mining materials.

Science & Technology and Space Cooperation

The India-US Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, which was signed in October 2005 and was extended for another 10 years in September 2019, is multifaceted and has been continuously developing. The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), a bi-national independent organisations founded to foster cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation, has continued to play an important role in this sector. Following the Covid-19 epidemic, India and the United States are focused on partnership, notably in the areas of health and medical research.

In the civil space sector, India and the United States have a long history of collaboration in Earth observation, satellite navigation, space science, and exploration. With the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and academic institutions, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has been aggressively pursuing civilian space cooperation. India and the United States founded the Indo-US Civil Space Collaboration Joint Working Group (Indo-US CJWG), which meets biannually to assess the level of cooperation and identify new areas for cooperation. On September 28, 2020, a virtual conference between the Scientific Secretary of the Indian Space Research Organization and the Associate Administrator of the United States National Aeronautical and Space Administration was conducted to examine ongoing ISRO-NSA collaborative efforts.

Counter Terrorism & Security Cooperation

Information sharing, operational collaboration, and the sharing of counterterrorism technology and equipment have all made significant advances in counterterrorism cooperation. The increased CT collaboration is overseen by the India-US Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. In September 2020, the Group convened its last virtual meeting. Separately, during the Prime Minister's June 2017 visit to the United States, it was agreed to establish a new consultation mechanism on local and international terrorist designations listing suggestions. The Homeland Security Dialogue at the Secretary of Homeland Security level began in May 2011. This includes six joint working groups on metropolitan police, a global supply chain of cross-border crime, countering illegal finance and counterfeiting, cybersecurity, capacity building, and the application of S & T in home / internal security increase.

Quad: India, Japan, the United States, and Australia

In 2004, the four Quad partners formed a "Core Group" to quickly organize help during the joint response to the tsunami of 2004. Quad engagements have escalated and intensified since 2017. The inaugural Quadrilateral Foreign Ministerial Meeting took place in New York in 2019. (December 2019). The second (Tokyo, October 2020) and third (Virtual, 18 February 2021) Quad Foreign Ministers meetings followed. On March 12, 2021, the Prime Minister virtually attended the first Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by President Biden. In the Joint Statement adopted at the Summit, the Leaders repeated their common vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The three practical areas identified for partnership at the Summit are affordable and equitable Covid 19 vaccine admission for the Indo-Pacific, consolidation climate actions, and critical and developing technology

Health Cooperation & Cooperation in combating Covid-19 pandemic

In the health sector, India and the United States have a long history of cooperation. Scientists from both nations have collaborated on a number of projects to better understand major diseases at both the basic and clinical levels. The India-US Health Dialogue spearheaded by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and US Department of Health and Human Services oversees the collaboration in the area of public

health. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare digitally interacted with US Secretary of Health & Human Services on 07 May 2021.

The long-standing bilateral healthcare collaboration has been a source of strength for both nations in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic's many obstacles. The two sides collaborated to tighten supply chains for critical commodities like medications, share best practices for managing Covid-19, and increase their collaboration on the development of therapies and vaccines to combat Covid-19. India replied to the United States' request for medications, personal protective equipment, masks, and other vital medical supplies last year (2020). When the second wave of the epidemic struck India in April 2021, the US government, Congress, states, the corporate sector, and the American people rallied behind India's attempts to combat COVID infections. On April 26, 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi talked, during which President Biden stated that, much as India assisted the US in its threatening situation last year, the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with India and support India's efforts by sharply deploying resources. President Biden pledged to give emergency aid to India, including oxygen, vaccine raw materials, treatments, and discovering raw material sources for vaccine production in India. Beginning with two planes delivering supplies on April 28, a total of seven flights carrying emergency supplies from the US government arrived in India on May 17, 2021.

During Prime Minister Modi's leadership, relations strengthened

The number of high-level visits and exchanges between India and the United States has increased dramatically in recent years. Prime Minister Modi visited the United States from September 26 to September 30, 2014, when he met with President Obama, members of the United States Congress, and political leaders from various states and cities around the country, as well as members of President Obama's Cabinet. He also went out to business and industrial leaders in the United States, as well as civil society and think tanks in the United States and the Indian-American community. During the visit, a Vision Statement and a Joint Statement were released. In the year 2000, the groundwork for 'engaged' India-US ties was built. India-US ties have reached unprecedented heights under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. This increase in engagement can be due to several factors.

- Prime Minister Modi has a strong personal connection between President Barack Obama and Donald Trump. This is the two American presidents he previously worked with.
- His ability to take strong decisions.
- Elevate the former rhetorical strategic partnership to a powerful new strategic partnership that is ready for Americans to provide significant security intelligence and equipment.
- Establish a key dialogue mechanism between the two countries that will help facilitate involvement throughout the year.
- Bilateral trade volume is increasing, and the United States has once again become India's top trading partner since 2018¹⁹. However, in this segment, the two countries often resolved disagreements.
- Convergence of ideas and national interests (democracy, pluralism, containment of China, etc.).

The United States' tough stance on China

Before and after the 2+2 dialogue, America's tough stance on China was clear. "I'm really looking forward to conducting that (discussions) with Secretary Esper and our 2+2 ministerial engagement with our Indian colleagues" Pompeo said at a news briefing on October 21, just days before flying for India and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region. My talks will very certainly include conversations about how free nations should work together to counter the Chinese Communist Party's threats." Pompeo continuous his anti-China stance in India, as well as during his visits to Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Indonesia. "Our leaders and citizens increasingly recognize that the CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, or freedom of navigation - the cornerstone of a free, open, and thriving Indo-Pacific," Pompeo said in India.

The two countries' attention must therefore "be on institutionalizing and regularizing our collaboration to confront the problems of the day and safeguard the values of a free and open Indo-Pacific long into the future," according to Esper. That was especially crucial, he added, "in view of China's rising assertiveness and threatening acts." In view of China's increasingly assertive plans in the Indo-Pacific area, the third 2+2 conference gave the US the opportunity to develop a deeper

security and strategic alliance with India. To oppose Chinese plans in the Indo-Pacific, the two countries will need to work together more closely in the future, as well as with like-minded states. The successful conclusion of the second Quad conference in Tokyo in early October was a positive move in this regard. The Joint Statement published following the 2+2 meeting expressed pleasure with the Quad meeting and stated the desire that the Quad would be developed further with yearly meetings to identify areas of intense collaboration among Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. The Royal Australian Navy will participate in the US-India-Japan Malabar naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in November, according to the joint statement.

The third 2+2 Dialogue and the press meetings of the two senior officials of the Trump administration have sufficiently expressed American ambitions to challenge China in the larger Asia-Pacific area. The United States clearly desired a tighter and stronger defence and strategic alliance with India and other like-minded countries in the region. The present trade battle between China and the United States, as well as American suspicions about China's role in the spread of the coronavirus, have contributed to the United States' recent severe stance on China. In the foreseeable future, the China factor will continue to have an influence on India-US ties. Both India and the United States will be keen to build strong political, security, and economic ties, since they are both concerned about Chinese plans in Asia and throughout the world. They will continue to engage like-minded nations and extend the multilateralism domain in international politics. In their attempts to limit authoritarian governments, both India and the United States will seek out to non-aligned countries. As a result, these two democracies' relationship is poised to reach new heights in the future.

Both the United States and India recognize that China is likely to constitute a long-term strategic threat to them. How will China interact with the rest of the world once it has stabilized its economic and technical advancements? In the United States and India, distinct assumptions are held. Some analysts believe China's future involvement in the Asia-Pacific area will be steadier and more defensive than destructive and attacking. Others believe that, based on characteristics of China's strategic culture, the country will pursue an offensive foreign policy when Chinese authorities believe the world power balance is in their favour. In terms of the nature of their future relations with a developing China, the United States and India have same interests but divergent approaches. Between China and the United States, there are also significant differences on matters like Taiwan and human rights.

Between China and India, there are fundamental disputes on matters such as border difficulties and non-proliferation.

India-US Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

President Donald Trump's handover to Vice President Joe Biden is likely to result in dramatic changes in US foreign policy. The Indo-Pacific region, on the other hand, is expected to see substantial continuity. While the Biden administration faces both old and new obstacles in promoting a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, the US and India are also poised to begin a new era of bilateral collaboration in the area. Delhi's aim to retain its regional supremacy has long limited Washington's capacity to play a role in India's neighborhood. China's advances in South Asia, on the other hand, have provided chances for the US and India to turn their shared worries about China's expanding aggressive and assertive actions into long-term collaboration. While the Trump administration has overtly mentioned China in its interactions with India's neighbors, India's policy has been more nuanced, aiming at combating Chinese influence in the area without naming China. However, by engaging more directly on capacity building, infrastructure development, and the region's post-pandemic recovery, the Biden administration may seize on possibilities to collaborate more directly with India inside South Asia and present their vision for the Indo-Pacific. However, in order to take advantage of these opportunities, the US will need to remain attentive to Indian concerns, pay close attention to India's articulated regional aspirations, and possibly even see the benefits of stepping aside and allowing India lead.

Conclusion

In the backdrop of the end of the cold war, China has challenged the writ of the United States in Asia and elsewhere. In the meanwhile, India has emerged an important global player at the global level. Since last two decades, Indo-US relations have become consensual foreign policy agenda in both Washington D.C and New Delhi. The security architecture of Asia has changed radically in last few decades. It has brought India and the United States closer and given the prevailing global security architecture is bound to accelerate in foreseeable future.

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