

## **India-US Bilateral Relations – A Brief**

India and United States enjoy a comprehensive global strategic partnership covering almost all areas of human endeavour, driven by shared democratic values, convergence of interests on a range of issues, and vibrant people-to-people contacts.

### **High-Level Exchanges**

2. Regular exchanges at the leadership-level and outcomes emerging from these visits have been instrumental in further strengthening the multifaceted ties between the two countries.

3. Prime Minister Modi and President Biden are in regular contact, having interacted on multiple occasions. In addition to bilateral meetings, PM has also participated in several virtual Summits convened by President Biden.

4. **PM's interactions with President Biden:**

- On sidelines of G20 Summit in Bali 15 November 2022.
- G7 Summit in Germany 27 June 2022.
- 24 May 2022, on sidelines of the Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo, Japan.

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington D.C. from 22-25 September 2021 on the invitation of President Biden for bilateral meeting with President Biden and participation in the first in-person Quad Leaders Summit on 24 September. PM also interacted with Vice President Kamala Harris.

6. **Incoming Visits from U.S.:**

- Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen to participate in the Economic-Finance Partnership Dialogue, November 2022.
- U.S. NSC Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Kurt Campbell, October 2022.
- USAID Administrator Ambassador Samantha Power July 2022.
- U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai November 2021.
- Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry 06-08 April 2021 and 12-14 September 2021.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken July 2021
- U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin 19-21 March 2021
- Under Secretary of State Ms. Uzra Zeya on May 17 – 20, 2022.

- Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland March 21, 2022.
- Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman 5 to 7 October 2021.

7. **Outgoing Visits to U.S.:**

- EAM visited Washington D.C. in May 2021, April 2022 and September 2022.
- EAM met Secretary Blinken in Cambodia on sidelines of EAS in November 2022, August 2022, on sidelines of G20 FMM in Bali in July 2022, and on sidelines of G7 Summit in June 2022.
- Finance Minister visited U.S. in October 2022
- Minister Petroleum and Natural Gas visited U.S. in October 2022 to co-chair the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership [SCEP] Ministerial
- Commerce and Industry Minister visited U.S. in September 2022 to participate in IPEF Ministerial Meeting.
- Raksha Mantri visited in April 2022 to co-chair the 2+2 Ministerial Meeting
- Foreign Secretary visited Washington D.C. on 7-8 November 2022
- G20 Sherpa visited U.S. November 2022.

**Bilateral Dialogue Mechanisms**

8. India-U.S. 2+2 Annual Ministerial Dialogue, led by EAM and RM and their respective counterparts, reviews bilateral ties in defense, strategic and security domains as well as important regional and global issues. The fourth 2+2 Dialogue was held on April 11, 2022 in Washington D.C.

**Parliamentary Exchanges**

10. India-US relations enjoy consistent bipartisan support in the US Congress. The India Caucus in the US Congress comprising the Senate India Caucus and the House Caucus on India and Indian Americans is the largest single country Caucus with over 150 members.

11. **Visits of U.S. Congressional Delegations [CODEL]**

- U.S. Senator Steve Daines [7-10 November 2021]
- A 5 member U.S. Congressional delegation led by Senator John Cornyn [11-13 November 2021]
- A three member U.S. Congressional delegation led by Congressman Adam Smith, Chairman of Armed Forces Committee [13-14 April 2022]
- Senator Kristen Gillibrand led a 5-member Congressional Delegation [20-22 April 2022]
- Representative Eric Swalwell [29-31 August 2022]
- Senator Jon Ossoff [30 August -10 September 2022]

## **Defence Cooperation**

12. India-US defence cooperation is based on “New Framework for India-US Defence Cooperation”, which was renewed for a period of ten years in 2015. In 2016, the defence relationship was designated as a Major Defence Partnership (MDP) to build a comprehensive, enduring and mutually beneficial defense partnership. On 30 July 2018, India was moved into the Tier-1 of the US Department of Commerce’s Strategic Trade Authorization license exception.

13. The Defense Policy Group (DPG) headed by Defense Secretary and Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) provides a platform for a comprehensive review of defense dialogues/mechanisms. The last DPG was held in Washington D.C. in October 2021. The defense procurement activities are monitored through the Defense Production and Procurement Group (DPPG).

14. In August 2022, a U.S. Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew visited in Chennai for repairs and allied services. This was the first ever repair of a U.S. Navy ship in India.

15. Several defense agreements have been signed. These include: Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (2016); Memorandum of Intent between the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Indian Defense Innovation Organization – Innovation for Defense Excellence (2018); Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018); Industrial Security Agreement (2019); Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020).

16. Bilateral exercises include: Yudh Abhyas (Army); Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), a tri-services exercise– Tiger Triumph (inaugurated in 2019). India joined the multilateral Combined Maritime Force (CMF) based in Bahrain, as an Associate Partner in April 2022. In November 2022, Australian Navy joined the U.S.-India-Japan MALABAR annual Naval Exercise. U.S. participated in India’s multilateral Exercise Milan 2022.

## **Counter Terrorism Cooperation**

17. Cooperation in counter-terrorism is one of the pillars of the bilateral partnership featuring information exchange, capacity building, operational cooperation and regular dialogue through the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. In 2017, both sides initiated

a dialogue on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals. The JWGs on CT and Designation Dialogue were held in Washington D.C. on 26-28 October 2021. Both sides are also working together on issues related to designation in the UN.

### **Security Cooperation**

18. The Homeland Security Dialogue (HSD) at the Home Minister/Secretary of Department of Homeland Security level was established in 2010. There are five joint Working Groups (sub-groups) under the HSD, namely i) Border and Global Supply Chain Security, ii) Local and State Law Enforcement Engagements, iii) Law Enforcement Investigative Cooperation iv) Professional Development and Capacity Building, and v) Aviation Security. Senior Officials Meeting of HSD, co-chaired by Home Secretary and Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security, took place virtually on 12 January 2022.

### **Counter-Narcotics Cooperation**

19. The 3rd Counter Narcotics Working Group (CNWG) meeting between India and U.S. was held in New Delhi on 7 July 2022. Indian delegation was led by DG NCB. An Amended Letter of Agreement (ALOA) for cooperation for drug related matters was signed.

### **Cyber Security Cooperation**

20. The India-US Cyber Framework signed in September 2016, provides for expanding cooperation in cyber domain. India-U.S. Cyber Dialogue was held in Washington D.C. on 21-23 September 2022. India also participated in the U.S. led Counter Ransomware Initiative [CRI] meeting held in Washington D.C. on November 1, 2022.

### **Trade & Economic Relations**

21. USA is the largest trading partner of India with respect to merchandise trade, with bilateral merchandise trade of US\$ 67.41 billion, accounting for 11.98% of India's total merchandise trade. As per U.S. Census data, India-US merchandise trade in calendar year 2021 (Jan-December) reached around \$113 billion. The bilateral hydrocarbons trade with USA started in 2017 amounted to US\$ 19 billion during 2021-22. US has become our 4th largest crude oil and 2nd largest LNG supplier.

#### **India-US Bilateral Trade:**

*(in US\$ million)*

India-US	Bilateral	2018	2019	2020	2021
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Trade (in US\$ million)

<b>India's Exports to US</b>	<b>India's Exports to US</b>	<b>India's Exports to US</b>	<b>India's Exports to US</b>	<b>India's Exports to US (in US\$ billion)</b>
1.Merchandise	54,282	57,694	51,190	73.37
2.Services	28,874	29,738	25,841	28.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,156</b>	<b>87,432</b>	<b>77,031</b>	<b>102.35</b>
<b>U.S. Exports to India</b>	<b>U.S. Exports to India</b>	<b>U.S. Exports to India</b>	<b>U.S. Exports to India</b>	<b>U.S. Exports to India (in US\$ billion)</b>
1.Merchandise	33,191	34,288	27,395	39.94
2.Services	25,200	24,333	17,420	16.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,391</b>	<b>58,621</b>	<b>44,815</b>	<b>56.66</b>
<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Bilateral Total Bilateral Trade</b>	<b>Total Bilateral Trade</b>	<b>Total Bilateral Trade</b>	<b>Total Bilateral Trade (in US\$ billion)</b>
1.Merchandise & Services	141,547	146,053	121,846	159.01

Source: US Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Census

22. In FY 2020-21, India received the highest ever FDI amounting to US\$ 81.72 billion (Source: MoCI). USA became our second largest source of FDI during 2020-21 with inflows of US\$ 13.82 billion. US is one of the top 5 investment destinations for Indian FDI.

23. Investment Incentive Agreement between Ministry of Finance and U.S. Development Finance Cooperation [DFC] was signed on May 23,

2022 to enable enhanced Investment support provided by U.S. DFC in India.

### **Dialogue Mechanisms:**

24. **India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum:** Established in 2005, the Trade Policy Forum is the leading bilateral mechanism to discuss trade related matters. CIM and USTR led the 12<sup>th</sup> TPF in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2021.

25. **India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue:** Focuses on cooperation in standards, ease of doing business, travel & tourism, and other important issues of commercial significance. It is co-chaired by CIM and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Next meeting is due in India.

26. **India-U.S. CEO Forum:** Established in 2005, the Forum meets on the sidelines of the India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue. The recommendations from this forum feeds into the India-U.S. Commercial dialogue. The CEO Forum held a virtual meeting on 9 November 2022, co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of Commerce and CIM.

27. **Information and Communications Technology:** A Joint Working Group on ICT was established in 2005 to bring together government and industry from both sides to discuss cooperation in the electronics & IT sector. The last meeting was held in January 2022.

28. **India - U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue (EFP):** Led by our Finance Minister and the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, the 9<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting of India-U.S. Economic & Financial Partnership Dialogue held in November 2022 in New Delhi. The 10<sup>th</sup> Financial and Regulatory Dialogue was held in June 2021 to discuss on reforms in banking, insurance, capital markets in both countries.

29. **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework [IPEF]:** India joined the launch of the IPEF in May 2022 and will work with the 13 Partner countries to build an inclusive and flexible Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. MoCI has been associated with the negotiations of the IPEF Agreement. India joined three Pillars of IPEF, related to supply chains, tax and anti-corruption and clean energy. Negotiations are ongoing on the text of agreement under these three Pillars.

### **Strategic Energy Partnership/ Climate & Clean Energy Agenda 2030**

30. India and US have a strong bilateral partnership in energy sector. In April 2021, the US and India launched “U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership,” with two tracks i.e. Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP); and Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD). The SCEP Ministerial Meeting twice so far, most recently in October 2022 led by U.S. Energy Secretary and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The SCEP has five pillars: 1) Power & Energy Efficiency, 2) Renewable Energy, 3) Responsible Oil & Gas, 4) Sustainable Growth, and 5) Emerging Fuels and Technologies (hydrogen bio-fuels and waste to energy). An Energy Storage Task Force was launched to support large-scale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition.

31. U.S.-India Natural Gas Task Force was set-up to support India’s vision for transitioning into a natural gas-based economy, MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserves for cooperation on Strategic Petroleum Reserves operation and maintenance was signed. A public-private Hydrogen Task Force enables scaling of technologies to produce hydrogen from renewable energy.

32. The inaugural CAFMD meeting was held on 13 September 2021 in Delhi chaired by Special Envoy on Climate John Kerry and our Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Both sides agreed to proceed with three pillars of cooperation, viz, Climate Track, Finance Mobilization and Adaptation and Resilience.

33. USA joined the International Solar Alliance in November 2021 and ratified the ISA Agreement in September 2022.

### **S&T and Space Cooperation**

34. The Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005, was renewed for 10 years in September 2019. The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), a bi-national autonomous organization established to promote cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation has continued to play an important role in strengthening cooperation in this field. U.S. National Science Foundation Director visited India in August 2022 to engage with his interlocutors across GoI.

35. India and the U.S. have a long history of cooperation in the civil space arena in Earth Observation, Satellite Navigation, Space Science and Exploration. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has been actively pursuing civilian space cooperation with the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); US Geological Survey (USGS) and academic institutions. India and the US formed a JWG on Civil Space Cooperation, which meets biannually. Scientific Secretary, ISRO and Associate Administrator, U.S. National Aeronautical and Space Administration met virtually on 28 September 2020 to review the ISRO-NASA joint activities.

36. ISRO and NASA are working together to realize a joint microwave remote sensing satellite for Earth observation, named NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). NASA/JPL will contribute L-band Radar, while ISRO will contribute S-band Radar and the satellite and launch vehicle and planned to be realized for launch during 2022-2023 timeframe. S-band SAR from ISRO was delivered to NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in May 2021 and the integration activities with NASA's L-band radar are going on. Several ISRO scientists are participating in these activities at NASA.

37. ISRO availed NASA/JPL's Deep Space Network Antenna support for its Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and Chandrayaan-2 mission. Both sides are currently exploring the possibility of availing similar support for Chandrayaan-3 satellite. ISRO and NASA are successfully implemented Scientific Personnel Exchange Programme in earth observation applications under the framework signed in April 2017. On commercial front, ISRO has launched more than 200 satellites from US, on-board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), as co passengers.

### **Health Cooperation**

38. There is longstanding collaboration in the health sector. Scientists from both countries have been working together to develop new therapeutics and diagnostics. The collaboration under Vaccine Action Program (VAP) resulted in development of ROTAVAC® vaccine against rota virus causes severe diarrhea in children. The vaccine developed by an Indian company at an affordable cost was introduced in the Expanded Program on Immunization.

39. There are more than 200 active collaborations between U.S. National Institutes of Health network of labs and leading research agencies in India, to deliver affordable health-care solutions. India supplies about 40% of generic formulations marketed in USA. Indian pharma companies have manufacturing locations in about 14 locations in USA. Indian companies, known for quality generic medicines have the



largest US Food and Drug Administration compliant pharmaceutical plants. Indian Institutions are collaborating to promote Ayurveda.

40. The India-US Health Dialogue spearheaded by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India and US Department of Health and Human Services oversees collaboration in the area of public health. On 27-28 September 2021, fourth India-US Health Dialogue was held in New Delhi, led by Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Director of the Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

41. India is actively participating in the US-led Global Action Plan (GAP) framework launched in February 2022 to bridge policy gaps and end the COVID pandemic. Under GAP, India is leading in three areas- Get shots in arms, supply chain resilience and capacity building for health-care workers.

42. The two sides worked together to strengthen supply chains of essential items such as medicines, exchange best practices on Covid-19 management, and expand cooperation on development of therapeutics and vaccines to counter Covid-19. In 2020 India sent to the U.S. pharmaceuticals, PPEs, masks and other essential medical supplies. In April 2021, the U.S. Government, private sector and others sent emergency COVID supplies to India during the second wave of COVID19. US Administration gave exemption under their Defence Production Act to enable India to import components and materials, for enhancing our Covid vaccine production. Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, USA collaborated with India's Biological E to produce the cost-effective Corbevax Covid 19 vaccine in India for regular and pediatric use. Serum Institute of India and Maryland-based firm Novavax are producing Covid vaccine Covavax, which received WHO approval. Merck's COVID-19 drug Molnupiravir is being produced by Indian companies. EAM participated in the Covid Ministerial meetings hosted by Secretary Blinken.

### **Education Cooperation**

43. Education partnership is an important pillar of India-US ties. Both countries share strong linkages and history of higher education collaborations. The United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) was set up after a bilateral agreement on education exchange was signed between India and the US on February 2, 1950. In July 2008, India and the US signed a new agreement, whereby India and the US committed to fund the Fulbright Program as equal partners. The USIEF

has awarded around 20,000 Fulbright and other grants to US and Indian scholars, professionals and students since its inception in 1950s.

44. US is one of the most favored destination of Indian students for higher education. As per the annual Open Doors report issued in November 2022 almost 21% of total international students in the U.S. are Indians. In 2022 close to 82000 student visas were issued in India, mostly for graduate (Masters) programs.

### **Diaspora/People-to-People ties**

45. About 4.2 million Indian Americans/Indian origin people reside in the US. Persons of Indian-origin (3.18 million] constitute the third largest Asian ethnic group in the US. There are many Indian American community organizations and professional organizations of Indian Americans. Indian Americans are one of the most successful communities and excel in diverse fields, including politics. The Indian diaspora has been a catalyst in cementing closer ties between India and the U.S. There are five persons of Indian origin in the U.S. Congress.

*November 2022*

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