

**Embassy of India**  
**Washington, D.C., USA**  
**India- USA Bilateral Relations**

**India - US Relations**

India and United States enjoy a comprehensive global strategic partnership covering almost all areas of human endeavor, 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 have been an integral element of the expanding bilateral engagement. The outcomes emerging from these visits have been instrumental in further strengthening the multifaceted ties between the two countries. Since assuming office in May 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited the U.S. a number of times (September 2014, September 2015, March-April 2016, June 2016, June 2017 and September 2019). President Obama paid a State visit to India in January 2015 and participated in the Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest. President Donald J. Trump paid a State Visit to India from 24 to 25 February 2020. Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu visited the US on 8-9 September 2018 and addressed the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Hindu Conference held in Chicago.

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on 17 November 2020 to congratulate him on his victory in the U.S. Presidential elections. They held a telephone conversation on 08 February 2021 and reiterated their commitment to consolidating bilateral strategic partnership. The two leaders also held a telephone conversation on 26 April 2021 committing to work closely together in the fight against COVID-19. PM Modi spoke to Vice-President Kamala Harris in June 2021. PM Modi participated in the Quad Leaders' Virtual Summit on March 12 2021, and Leaders Summit on Climate April 22-23, convened by President Biden.

4. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited the U.S. in September-October 2019 and for the 2+2 Dialogue in December 2019. Then US Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo visited India in June 2019. Former US Deputy Secretary of State, Stephen Biegun visited India from 12-14 October 2020. The then US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper visited India in end-October 2020 for the third 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. EAM Dr. Jaishankar spoke to U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on 29 January 2021 to congratulate him on his appointment. NSA Shri Ajit Doval spoke to U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on 27 January 2021 to congratulate him on his appointment. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh spoke to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on 27 January 2021 to congratulate on his appointment and to discuss issues of

mutual interest.

5. The US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin visited India from 19-21 March 2021. During his visit, Secretary Austin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, NSA, EAM and other senior dignitaries of the Government of India. Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry travelled to India on 06-08 April 2021. EAM Dr. S Jaishankar visited US from 23-28 May, 2021 and held discussion with the Secretary of State Blinken, other political and Congressional leaders and interacted with the business leaders. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken travelled to New Delhi on 27-28 July 2021, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and met EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.

### **Bilateral Dialogue Mechanisms**

6. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, India-U.S. cooperation witnessed intense engagement under various bilateral dialogue mechanisms in wide range of areas including defense, security, health, trade, economic, science & technology, energy and people-to-people ties.

7. India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, led by the heads of Foreign and Defense Ministries of India and the U.S, reviews the bilateral ties in defense, strategic and security domains as well as important regional and global issues. The inaugural India-U.S. Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue was held on 06 September 2018 in New Delhi. The then US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis visited India for the dialogue with EAM Late Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defense/Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman. Three rounds of the Dialogue have been held (September 2018; December 2019 & October 2020) so far.

### **Parliamentary Exchanges**

8. There have been regular parliamentary exchanges to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation. In 2019 and early 2020, several Congressional delegations visited India, which included Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ), presently the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Ted Cruz (R-TX), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Maggie Hassan (D- NH) Congressmen George Holding (R-NC), Ami Bera (D-CA), James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Congresswomen Lois Frankel (D-FL), Julia Brownley (D-CA).

9. The India-US relations enjoy strong bipartisan support in the US Congress. The India Caucus in the US Congress comprising of the Senate Indian Caucus and the House Caucus on India and Indian Americans is the largest single country Caucus in the US Congress with over 150 members. The Senate India Caucus is led by Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) and the in the House of Representatives, it is led by Congressmen Brad Sherman (D-CA), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Ro Khanna (D- CA) and Michael Waltz (R-FL). The Caucus regularly meets to discuss important issues related to the India US relations and recently, led a resolution in the House of Representatives titled

“Urging the Administration to facilitate assistance in response to the devastating impact of COVID-19 in India.” This bipartisan resolution was passed in the House of Representatives in a unanimous vote reflecting the strong support for India on both sides of the aisle.

## **Defence Cooperation**

10. 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). The MDP recognizes a shared desire 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.

11. The Defense Policy Group (DPG) headed by Defense Secretary and Under Secretary Defense (Policy) provides a platform for a comprehensive review of the defense dialogues/mechanisms. The last DPG was held in Washington D.C. in August 2019. The 10th Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI) meeting co-chaired by Secretary (Defense Production) and Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) was held virtually on 15 September 2020. Separately, the DTTI Industry Collaboration Forum (DICF) and the DTTI Inter Agency Task Force (DIATF) met virtually in 2020. The 4th Maritime Security Dialogue (MSD) was held in August 2019. The other mechanisms include the Military Cooperation Group, the three Executive Steering Groups (ESGs) for military-to-military cooperation, the Joint Technology Group and the Senior Technology Security Group (STSG).

12. Defense procurements from the US have been an area of steady growth in the last decade. India has procured defense items of around US\$ 21 billion from the US since 2008. The defense procurement activities are monitored through the Defense Production and Procurement Group; the last meeting took place in August 2019.

13. Several defense agreements have been signed in recent years. These include: Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (August 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 (September 2018); Industrial Security Agreement (December 2019); Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (October 2020).

14. Bilateral military exercises and defense exchanges are important aspect of deepening military-to-military cooperation. The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country. In addition to a number of service-to-service exercises, in 2019 a tri-services exercise– Tiger Triumph- was conducted in November 2019. Bilateral and regional exercises includes: Yudh Abhyas (Army); Vajra Prahar (Special Forces); RIMPAC; Red Flag. In November 2020, Royal Australian Navy joined the U.S.-India-Japan MALABAR Naval Exercise held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Both sides have conducted a number of PASSEX with the US carrier groups

in the Indian Ocean Region.

## **Quad**

15. The four Quad partners (India, Japan, United States & Australia) first formed a “Core Group” in 2004, to swiftly mobilize aid during the joint response to the 2004 Tsunami. Since 2017, Quad engagements have increased and intensified. In 2019, the first Quad Foreign Ministerial Meeting was held in New York (December 2019). This was followed by the second (Tokyo, October 2020) and third (18 February 2021, virtual) Quad Foreign Ministers meetings.

16. On 12 March 2021, Prime Minister participated in the the first Quad Leaders’ Summit virtually, hosted by President Biden. In the Joint Statement adopted at the Summit, the Leaders reiterated 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 access for the Indo-Pacific; strengthening climate actions; and critical and emerging technology.

## **Counter Terrorism Cooperation**

17. Cooperation in counter-terrorism has seen considerable progress with information exchange, operational cooperation and sharing of counter- terrorism technology and equipment. India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism oversees the expanding CT cooperation. The last meeting of the Group was held in a virtual format in September 2020. Separately, it was agreed during PM’s visit to the US in June 2017 to launch a new consultation mechanism on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals.

## **Security Cooperation**

18. The Homeland Security Dialogue at the Home Minister/Homeland Secretary level began in May 2011. It has six Joint Working Groups on megacity policing, global supply chain of trans-national crime, countering illicit financing and counterfeiting, cyber security, capacity building and application of S&T in homeland/internal security.

## **Counter-Narcotics Cooperation**

19. Both countries setup Counter-Narcotics Working Group which met for the first time virtually on 24 November 2020. The second virtual meeting was on 2 June 2021. Director General Rakesh Asthana, Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, led our delegation. White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Assistant Director Kemp Chester, Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Jorgan Andrews, and Department of Justice Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Hodge jointly led the U.S. delegation.

## **Cyber Security Cooperation**

20. The India-US Cyber Framework signed in September 2016, provides for

expanding cooperation in cyber domain. The fourth India-US Cyber Security Dialogue was held in Washington in February 2018. The Indian delegation was led by Deputy NSA and included National Cyber Security Coordinator and Additional Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy) from MEA. The last meeting of the Dialogue was held in a virtual format in September 2020.

## Trade & Economic Relations

21. The rapidly expanding trade and commercial linkages form an important component of the multi-faceted partnership between India and the United States. The U.S. is India's second largest trading partner and a major destination for our exports of goods and services. Bilateral trade in goods and services stood at US\$ 146 billion in 2019. Significant increase in bilateral hydrocarbon trade between India and U.S.A. has been registered, touching US\$ 9.2 billion during 2019-20.

### India-US Bilateral Trade:

*in US\$ million*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>India's Exports to US</b>						
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
<b>Total</b>	69,393	72,201	76,750	83,156	87,432	77,031
<b>U.S. Exports to India</b>						
1.Merchandise	21,453	21,647	25,648	33,191	34,288	27,395
2.Services	18,374	20,616	23,647	25,200	24,333	17,420
<b>Total</b>	39,827	42,263	49,295	58,391	58,621	44,815
<b>Total Bilateral Trade between India and the U.S.</b>						
1.Merchandise & Services	109,220	114,464	126,045	141,547	146,053	121,846
<i>Source: US Department of Commerce, US Bureau of Census</i>						

22. During financial year 2020-21, India received the highest ever foreign direct investment amounting to USD 81.72 billion, as per data published by Ministry of

Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The US replaced Mauritius as second largest source of foreign direct investment into India during 2020-21 with inflows of USD 13.82 billion. US is one of the top 5 investment destinations for Indian FDI. According to a survey conducted by CII (June 2020) Indian companies employ nearly 125,000 people in the US, with tangible investments exceeding US\$ 22 billion across diverse sectors, including pharmaceuticals and life sciences, telecommunications, aerospace and defense, financial services, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality, design and engineering, automotive, food and agriculture, energy and mining materials.

23. There are several bilateral dialogue mechanisms in place to discuss issues of mutual interest. These include:

- **India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum:** Established in 2005, the Trade Policy Forum serves as the leading bilateral mechanism to discuss trade related matters. The 11<sup>th</sup> Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting was held in Washington DC on 26 October 2017. CIM Piyush Goyal and USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai during their telephone calls on 25 March and 14 May 2021 discussed reviving the Trade Policy Forum. Meeting of the TPF Intellectual Property working group was on 30 June 2021 co-chaired by JS, DPIIT and Deputy Assistant USTR for South and Central Asia from the US side.
- **India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue:** India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue focuses on cooperation in areas such as standards, ease of doing business, travel & tourism, and other important issues of commercial significance. The meeting is chaired by the Minister of Commerce & Industry and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. The first session of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue under the new structure was held in Washington DC on 27 October 2017. A virtual meeting between CIM and Secretary Wilbur Ross took place in July 2020. CIM Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo in a telephone call on 29 April 2021 discussed early convening of Commercial Dialogue.
- **India-U.S. CEO Forum:** The India-U.S. CEO Forum was 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 last met virtually in July 2020.
- **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 of the India-US ICT Working Group meeting took place virtually on 1 October 2020.
- **India – U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue (EFP):** The India – U.S. Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue is led by the Finance Minister of India and the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. The 7<sup>th</sup> EFP Dialogue was held on November 1, 2019 in Delhi. To contribute to the evolving contours of EFP, the 9<sup>th</sup> India-US Financial Regulatory Dialogue was held earlier on August 26- 27, 2019 in Washington D.C. focusing upon reforms in the areas of banking, insurance, capital markets in both the countries. On June 15-16, 2021, India and U.S. held the

10<sup>th</sup> Financial and Regulatory Dialogue to continue the discussion on reforms in these areas.

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

24. India and US have a strong bilateral partnership in energy sector. In 2010, bilateral Energy Dialogue was launched. In a meeting held in New Delhi on 17 April 2018 between Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and then US Secretary for Energy, Mr. Rick Perry, it was decided to replace Energy Dialogue with Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP). The SEP is based on four primary pillars of cooperation: (i) Oil and Gas; (ii) Power and Energy Efficiency; (iii) Renewable Energy and (iv) Sustainable Growth. During the First SEP Ministerial, setting up of US- India Natural Gas Task Force was announced to support India's vision for transitioning into a natural gas-based economy. The two sides also reaffirmed their strong commitment to early and full implementation of civil nuclear energy partnership, including the Westinghouse civil nuclear project in Kovvada.

25. The second Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) Ministerial Dialogue was held virtually on 17 July, 2020. The major achievements of the Dialogue, inter-alia, included signing of an MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserves for cooperation on Strategic Petroleum Reserves operation and maintenance, including exchange of information and best practices. A public-private Hydrogen Task Force was launched to help scale up technologies to produce hydrogen from renewable energy and fossil fuel sources and to bring down the cost of deployment for enhanced energy security and resiliency. Collaboration on the deployment and integration of renewable energy and new technologies into the grid was also enhanced along with increasing cooperation in the field of energy efficiency and conservation.

26. At the Leaders' Summit on Climate held during April 22-23, 2021, the United States and India launched a new high-level partnership, the "U.S.- India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership," which envisages bilateral cooperation on strong actions in the current decade to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Partnership will proceed along two main tracks i.e. Strategic Clean Energy Partnership; and Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue.

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

27. India-US cooperation in Science and Technology is multi-faceted and has been growing steadily under the framework of the India-US Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2005, which was renewed for a period of ten 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. After the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, both India and the US are focusing on collaboration particularly in health and medical research.

28. 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 Joint Working Group on Civil Space Cooperation (Indo-US CJWG), which meets biannually to review the status of cooperation and identifies newer areas for furthering space cooperation. A virtual meeting between, Scientific Secretary, Indian Space Research Organization and Associate Administrator, U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration was held on 28 September 2020 to review the ongoing ISRO-NSA joint activities.

29. The 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. ISRO has sent the S-band SAR to JPL in March 2021. Joint integration activities of S- SAR and L-SAR are in progress. The NISAR Joint Steering Group meeting was held virtually on 18 August 2020.

30. 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**

31. There has been longstanding collaboration between India and US in health sector. Scientists from both countries have been working together in several programs to understand important diseases at basic and clinical level. Many such programs have been focused on translational research 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. Vaccine was developed by an Indian company at an affordable cost. The vaccine has been commercialized and introduced in the Expanded Program on Immunization. Development of many other vaccines such as TB, Influenzas, Chikungunya are also in progress under VAP. Besides, there are over 200 ongoing NIH funded projects in India involving 20 institutions from NIH network and several imminent institutions in India engaged in a wide spectrum of research areas to create health care solution. Indian Institutions have also



been collaborating to promote Ayurveda through joint research, teaching, and training programs.

**32.** 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.

### **Cooperation in combating Covid-19 pandemic**

**33.** The long-standing bilateral cooperation in healthcare sector has been a source of strength for both countries in meeting the manifold challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Last year (2020) India responded to the US request for pharmaceuticals, PPEs, masks and other essential medical supplies. As the second wave of pandemic hit India in April 2021, the U.S. Government, the Congress, States, the private sector and the American people extended their support in India's efforts to confront the COVID infections. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi spoke on 26 April 2021, during which President Biden conveyed that just as India had helped the US in its difficult situation last year, the US will "stand shoulder to shoulder with India" and support India's efforts by quickly deploying resources. President Biden committed to provide emergency relief to India, including oxygen-related supplies, vaccine raw materials, and therapeutics and identifying sources of raw materials to be made available for manufacture of vaccines in India. Starting with two flights airlifting supplies on 28 April, a total of seven flights carrying emergency supplies from the US Government landed in India by 17 May 2021.

### **Education Cooperation**

**34.** Education partnership is an important pillar of India-US ties and both the 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. USEFI was renamed USIEF (United States-India Educational Foundation). The USIEF has awarded around 20,000 Fulbright and other grants to US and Indian scholars, professionals and students since its inception in 1950s.

**35.** India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue, launched in 2012, laid out a road map for promoting strategic institutional partnerships, deepening collaboration in research and development, fostering partnerships in vocational education and focusing on junior faculty development. Under the "21st Century Knowledge Initiative", started in 2012, both India and the U.S. pledged US \$ 5 million, which has funded University linkages and Junior

Faculty Development. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US in September 2014, it was decided to establish the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) to facilitate visits by 1000 U.S. teachers annually to teach in India. GIAN was launched on 30 November 2015 and has been extended to other countries also. With the announcement of India's National Education Policy 2020, new education partnerships are being pursued.

**36.** US is one of the most favored destination of Indian students for higher education. As per the annual report of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), a part of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement that manages nonimmigrant student-visa monitoring system in the US, there were 2,07,460 Indian students in the U.S. in 2020, thus accounting for almost 17% of total international students in the U.S. for students coming to the US. The majority of Indian students in the U.S. come for graduate (masters) programs. As per the annual Open Doors report issued in November 2020 by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, for the academic year 2019-20, the impact of Indian students on the US economy was approximately US \$ 7.70 billion.

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

**37.** About 4.2 million Indian Americans/Indian origin people reside in the US. The Indian Americans [3.18 million] constitute the third largest Asian ethnic group in the US. There are a number of Indian American community organizations as well as several professional organizations of Indian Americans. Indian Americans are one of the most successful immigrant communities in the US and are excelling in diverse fields, including politics. The Indian diaspora has been a catalyst in cementing closer ties between India and the U.S.

**Source: Embassy of India, USA Web site July 2021.**