

India - US Relations And Their Contemporary Concerns

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Abstract

“If I have to describe the India-US relationship in a single word, I will say we are natural allies. I think the relationship between India and US, and the two countries themselves, have played an enormously important role and continue to play an important role in strengthening democratic values all over the world.”- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The research paper starts with an analysis of the relations between the United States and India over the last seven decades. It categorises these relations into three stages-The Cold War era, the post-Cold War era and the twentieth century. Next, it highlights the emerging development of climate change cooperation and the sharing of critical technologies related to developing clean energy infrastructure. In recent years there has been a huge interest in sharing defence technologies between the two countries. Several pacts and agreements concerning them have been highlighted.

Further, the research paper dwells on the increasing trade and investment relations and the areas of cooperation and hindrances in them. In the last decade, the Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the centre of geo-political activity. The two countries have taken massive efforts to work together in this region in areas such as supply chain diversification, trade and navigation. There are several geo-political convergences and divergences between both countries. The areas of convergence are China and the Indo-Pacific and the areas of divergence are Russia and the West Asian region. The paper analyses the reasons behind these divergences and convergences. The recommendations are provided in the end which can prove to be fruitful to accelerate the growing relationship between the two countries.

Introduction

India is the world's largest democracy and the United States is the world's oldest. The relations between both of them have seen constant ups and down. These relations have not just been a result of bilateral arrangements and conditions but also because of various multilateral factors. The roller coaster journey between the two can be categorised into three stages- The Cold War era, the post-Cold War era and the twentieth century.

After the end of the second world war, the world was divided into two camps. One led by the United States and the other by the Soviet Union. India under its first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru chose to be non-aligned. It avoided being dragged into any of the two groups but because of the socialist leanings of the ruling elite of that time India was seen to be leaning towards the Soviet Union block. On the other hand, Washington was pursuing its containment plan of encircling the Soviet Union and in this endeavour, Pakistan became its significant ally. The growing Pakistan-US relations created hostilities and fear in the minds of the ruling elite. However, after the Sino-Indian War of 1962,

cooperation and coordination were seen between both countries as the United States provided food aid and supported India in other forms. The deadlock emerged in 1971 when the United States supported the Pakistani Army in East Pakistan and India in its response signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation with the Soviet Union. India had earlier refused to be part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and in 1974 it conducted what it called a “peaceful nuclear test” which led to loud protests from the United States. The invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 by the Soviet Union and the American support to the Mujahudins by using Pakistan as a base led to further alienation of India from the United States.¹

During the 1970s and the 1980s, the Soviet Union had been India’s biggest trade and investment partner. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 came as a big shock for India’s external financial sector, coupled with the newly enacted economic reforms that compelled India to chart out a different foreign policy. The United States had emerged as the sole superpower, this compelled India to further its engagement with it. The opening up of the Indian economy led to rapid economic growth in the mid-1990s this attracted the United States as it saw India as a potential market and investment destination. The Pokhran test led to some temporary setbacks in the emerging relations but due to a continuous dialogue between the two countries, the United States realized that it was necessary for India to have nuclear weapons as it had two nuclear-armed hostile neighbours.²

The arrival of the twenty-first century brought new energy and scope for partnership between the two countries. The United States of America became worried about the rapid growth of China and realised its threat to the American influence in the Indo-Pacific. It saw India as a possible responsible balancer in this region. The attack of 9/11 led to further cooperation among them for a global war on terrorism. Pakistan was pressured to take steps to reduce terrorism on its soil. The biggest boost was the nuclear deal signed in 2008 by the Bush administration and the UPA government led by Dr Manmohan Sign. This deal ended the thirty-year-old nuclear sanctions imposed on India by the United States. The US recognised India as a responsible nuclear power that would not proliferate. It opened up India’s nuclear equipment market. The most significant aspect of the deal would be the assistance to develop civil nuclear energy which would be a much-needed boost for India’s woeful power generation sector. This deal opened the gates for further technology transfer related to military hardware and weapons.³

¹ [UNISCI](#)

² [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)

³ [UNISCI](#)

Clean Energy and Climate Change Cooperation

In the last decade climate change and clean energy have been the talk of the town. Both of them cannot be pursued independently by any country without any cooperation with other countries. This is because of the high interconnectedness and dependence that has increased over time. India and the United States are one of the world's biggest economies. This has led to significantly more net carbon emissions and a high presence of greenhouse gasses in both of them. The United States is considered a world leader in the sphere of clean energy technology. On the other hand, India is on a path to increase the share of renewable energy in its power generation sector. It plans to make the utmost use of the abundant solar and wind energy capacity that it possesses. The United States has a goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and India has to achieve it by 2070.

Even though there should be no debate in regard to the necessity of cooperation among them, there has been a history of conflicts, debates and disagreements with regard to climate change. The First World has put an onus on developing countries(like India) to reduce their carbon emissions as they have emerged as significant polluters due to their recent years of rapid economic growth. On the other hand, Global South has put the responsibility on developed countries first to put their house in order as they have been historical pollutants and now are forcing the developing countries to take responsibility when they themselves have been evading it for decades. This has been the scenario right from Rio to Paris conferences.

However, there are several instances of collaboration among them. Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) was formed in 2009 with several US-based government agencies working to develop and finance renewable energy projects in India. It has established a Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Centre to promote solar, wind, biofuel and other forms of renewable energy. Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN) comprising not-for-profit organisations, businesses and governments has come together to promote innovation in the renewable energy sector, generate finance and advocate climate change mitigation policies. U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and the Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Limited (GETCO) have collaborated to ensure efficient loading of the newly built solar and wind energy into the large power transmission grid. The United States private sector has also shown interest in the project, with Quanta Technology participating in it. A climate change working group had been formed post-Paris summit in order to encourage sustainable development, afforestation, energy efficiency, smart grid developments, etc. ⁴

⁴ [United States Agency for International Development](#)

The recent visit by the Prime Minister to the United States has culminated in forming of India-US New and Emerging Renewable Energy Technologies Action Platform which will work together in fields like onshore and offshore wind energy, green hydrogen and many such technologies. The major focus of this platform would be to reduce the cost of green energy production. A Global Biofuel alliance has been announced with the United States being the founding member. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Indian Railways has signed a memorandum of understanding under which the United States will deploy several technologies for renewable energy, and energy storage technologies to help the Indian railways achieve its target of becoming a net zero carbon emitter by 2030. The deployment and manufacturing of electric buses; the development of small-scale modular nuclear reactors are also points on the card for both countries. An innovative investment platform has been formed to attract private finance and capital for deploying in sectors of battery storage, renewable energy, etc.⁵

Bilateral efforts are taken up in developing electric vehicle manufacturing and financing ecosystem; decarbonising manufacturing by encouraging carbon capture and regulatory norms; reducing emissions in oil and natural gas exploration by using methane-based techniques, designing and promoting energy-efficient buildings, etc.⁶

Defence and Military Cooperation

The beginning of the twenty-first brought a major change in the military and defence relations between both countries. This change was signified by signing the 'New Framework for India- US Defence Relations' in 2005. Followed by the nuclear deal there was increased activity in aspects such as maritime security, joint naval exercises, sharing of defence technology, trade of weapons and ammunition, etc. This agreement was renewed in 2015.

Post 9/11 and the Mumbai attacks of 26/11 cooperation with respect to counter-terrorism has significantly increased. India-US Counter-Terrorism Cooperation initiative was signed in 2010 along with it Homeland Security Dialogue was also declared.

These defence relations have led to acquisitions worth more than \$13 billion of armaments. Task forces and working groups have been formed to encourage industrial-military cooperation in India. In recent times broader areas of naval surveillance, air defence system, and anti-missile and aircraft systems are some of the technologies which India wants to bring in through the support of the United States.⁷

⁵ [Deccan Herald](#)

⁶ [Energy.gov](#)

⁷ [Ministry of External Affairs.](#)

In 2016, the Prime Minister made a trip to the United States where the US recognised India as its 'Major Defence Partner', which will further facilitate technology transfer between both countries.

Post the Russia-Ukraine war, Russia's reliability as a defence supplier has been significantly reduced. India also wishes to improve its Atmanirbharta in this sector. The recent visit of United States Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin's visit to India from 4th June -5th June 2023 was underlined by the above factors. The 2+2 Ministerial dialogue held in April 2022, focused on naval cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in order to counter the growing threat of China. In recent times the renewed focus has been given to the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) in order to improve defence manufacturing as companies like Boeing, Honeywell Aerospace, Raytheon and Textron have partnered with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Tata Group and even supported the emerging startups in the defence technology space. General Electric has made a partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to manufacture jet engines for the new indigenous Tejas Aircraft. Under this partnership, ninety-nine F14 engines will be manufactured along with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Around 80% of technology transfer has been agreed upon by General Electric. This will significantly help India to become self-reliant in producing, designing and developing jet engines⁸

The India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched during the Prime Minister's recent visit. It is an agreement which aims to increase partnerships with respect to innovation in the defence sector. Under this forum, American and Indian startups engaged in areas of space artificial intelligence and advanced defence technologies could co-develop and co-produce these technologies. Also, joint innovation funds, centres of defence startups, advanced laboratories, easing of cross-border regulations, and partnerships between the public and private sectors can be envisaged under this ecosystem. The US Department of Defense in a statement said, "This initiative aims to change the paradigm for cooperation between the US and Indian defence sectors, including a set of specific proposals that could provide India access to cutting-edge technologies and support India's defence modernisation plans." This initiative will help India not only become self-reliant but also to be a major exporter of armaments, naval vessels and missiles. India aims to achieve a target of exports worth 5 billion dollars. This agreement may help India achieve this target. India is also set to procure thirty-one MQ9B HALE drones from the United States. US defence company General Atomic offered India these drones at a price of three billion dollars. Under this procurement, some drones will be directly procured and some will be manufactured in India through the transfer of technology process. India seeks to achieve at least 20% technology transfer. These drones will be utilised by all

⁸ [The Hindu](#)

three forces. The negotiation process will be a long one as the offer has to be passed through various government committees in the United States. The future is full of hope and glimmer for both of these countries, especially in relation to cooperation in this area.

Trade and Investment

Post the Economic reforms of 1991, India has increased its trade and investment across the globe. However, the biggest partner which has emerged in the last two decades has been the United States. It is India's largest trading partner with the value of their trade being more than 100 billion dollars. The US has been the biggest market for Indian goods like pharmaceutical products, gems, jewellery and most important IT services. The United States has been one of the biggest Foreign Direct Investment sources of India. These investments have varied across sectors like defence, machinery, motors, heavy chemicals, etc. On the other hand, the major items imported by India are oil, natural gas, minerals, metals, etc.⁹

The hindrance to trade between the countries has always been the tariff rates. These tariffs have been an issue of concern, especially in goods whose domestic manufacturing has been encouraged. These items are steel, aluminium, food products, etc. The issue has been taken up at the WTO level. Most recently the area of concern and interest has been digital trade. US-based technology companies have been fearing the new data law passed by the Indian Government requiring data localisation and restrictions on the cross-border flow of data. Discussions have been held at the World Trade Organisation where both countries have agreed to rationalize their tariffs with regard to the trade of digital services. The other areas of concern that have emerged between them hindering full-scale investment is the difference of opinions with respect to intellectual property rights. These norms have hindered investment in sectors like healthcare and medical devices. In order to encourage greater foreign direct investment an Investment Incentive Agreement has been signed by the United States Development Financial Cooperation and Ministry of Finance on 23rd May 2022. India has allowed foreign direct investment in earlier restricted sectors like insurance and allowed 74 % FDI in defence, and 100% FDI in telecom. The Indian stock market has beaten all expectations and has performed better than all the stock markets of emerging economies. This has encouraged United States institutional investors to pour money into the Indian stock markets.¹⁰

⁹ [India Brand Equity Foundation](#)

¹⁰ [Congressional Research Service](#)

Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Indo-Pacific is a vast region ranging from the coast of East Africa to upto Australia and Japan. In the last decade, this region has been placed at the centre of geopolitical affairs. Out of the top five economies of the world three are located in this region. Five nuclear powers are located here. The region has also witnessed significant militarization in the last two decades. The region is home to several conflicts like the South China Sea, the Taiwanese Strait and the chess game existing between India and China where China's strategy is to create a string of pearls in order to curb the rising power of India in the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, India has developed naval bases across Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius to put a check on China's oil and gas-based supply chain. This has been the basis of Indo-US cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. For the United States, it becomes utmost necessary to maintain its influence in the most significant geo-political region of the world. It also wants to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific which would encourage trade and navigation. The biggest challenge it faces in ensuring its goals is the rising Chinese power led by its powerful navy in the region. The strategy used by the United States has been to collide with regional powers who also are threatened by China-India, Japan and Australia. The quadrilateral security dialogue envisaged and formed in 2007 comprising India, Japan, Australia and the USA was the first step in that direction. However, for the first ten years, it could not develop itself as none of the countries wished to upset Beijing. The post-pandemic realities compelled these countries to once again take a look at the QUAD with the first QUAD summit being held in 2021.¹¹

China as mentioned is the biggest reason for the growing coordination between the two powers in the region. This was highlighted by the fact sheet released in February 2022, highlighting its strategy in the region. Even though it is often said that India is the weak link in the QAUD, it has taken a significant space with a large influence of it in the Indian Ocean, a huge military and a significant trading and economic power. This is highlighted by the strategy document released which says " Washington will continue to build a strategic partnership in which the United States and India work together and through regional groupings to promote stability in South Asia and steadily advance our Major Defense Partnership with India and support its role as a net security provider." The strategy also identified India as "a like-minded partner and leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean and a driving force of the Quad and other regional fora and an engine for regional growth and development"¹²

Geopolitical divergences and convergences

When India looks towards the regions and countries towards its west it finds that its stance and views differ significantly from the United States. When India looks towards its east it finds that its stance and

¹¹ [Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies](#)

¹² [The White House](#)

views are quite similar to the United States. Iran, Afghanistan and Russia have been significant points of geopolitical divergence. Whereas the Indo-Pacific and China have been points of geopolitical convergences. These divergences and convergences are because of several global as well as domestic factors. The convergence in China is a result of China's attempt to gain global hegemony and restructure the balance of power. On the other hand, the divergences in Russia, Iran and Afghanistan are due to local factors that have created problematic leadership and also the compulsion that America faces on its domestic soil.

The United States mainly views China as its biggest economic and technological competitor. It believes that China can alter the current international order by playing unfair games and violating the international rule-based system. India similarly faces the Chinese threat in the form of the China-Pakistan economic corridor, its alterations and advancements along the line of actual control, containing India's influence in its neighbourhood by providing aid and loan to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, etc. This convergence has led to increased cooperation between both countries in the Indo-Pacific region. India sees the United States as a partner that can help increase its military, technological and economic power. The United States sees India as an emerging power that can balance the Chinese in Asia.

The biggest security threat that the United States believes it faces is Russia. The interference of Russia in the US Presidential elections, violation of human rights, etc were some concerning issues before the Russia- Ukraine War. Post the war the relations between both countries have significantly deteriorated. India enjoys excellent relations with Russia. The defence and technological cooperation between them has emerged as a contentious issue for Washington. Especially the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) with respect to India's purchase of the S-400 air defence system from Russia. However, there are chances that America would try to waive these sanctions in order to not put a break on the momentous relationship. The complexities have increased significantly after the Russia- Ukraine war. The United States has put restrictions on the purchase of Russian oil but India has continued buying discounted Russian oil in order to maintain its strategic autonomy. It has even refused to directly condemn the Russian actions in Ukraine and has only made the statement that *this is not an era of war*. It becomes necessary that both countries should understand each other's concerns and needs and try to look at the larger picture of the growing relations between them.

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the takeover of the Taliban have led to fear and apprehensions in India regarding the threat of terrorism. Taliban has good relations with Pakistan, this could prove detrimental to not only the security of India but also the role it can play in the rebuilding process in Afghanistan. With regard to Iran, the United States has opposed its nuclear programme and

has put sanctions on any country buying oil from Iran. Iran has been one of the biggest suppliers of oil to India but post the sanctions India has stopped buying oil from Iran. This has increased the value of oil imports for India. Divergences and convergences exist in every relationship the key is how one looks at it and at what rate it can mettle out their differences.¹³

Recommendations

- *Data, Digitization and Privacy-*

Digital public infrastructure has been greatly discussed at recently held G20 meetings. It is suggested that India can be a great help to the United States in helping it create something similar to the *India stack* consisting of a Unified Payment Interface”, government E- market place portal, Open Network For Digital Commerce, and Aadhar-based biometric data. This can help the United States create robust digital public infrastructure and reduce its dependence on private technology companies. Digital services and their trade has emerged as the new domain between the two countries. However, there have been several concerns too, especially related to the data localisation norms. This issue has also been taken up by several domestic startups in India. The Indian government should take cognisance of this concern and allow cross-data flow. This would help to create further opportunities for India-based startups to explore the United States market and even to raise funding from them. Along with data trade, data protection and data security are the two necessities. The Indian government has prepared a draft of a data protection bill(Digital India and Data Protection Bill).However, there are several concerns with regard to the government’s regulation of data, cross-border sharing of data, data portability and interoperability. The data law prepared by the United States can help India navigate these areas of concern. Thus a big opportunity exists for collaboration in policymaking with respect to data and technology. There have been several instances of data leakages and data piracy. Joint research and information sharing should be held to improve data protection. Cyber crimes and online frauds are also important domains where both of these countries can increase their cooperation.

- *Trade and Investments-*

The United States is India’s biggest trading partner. However, there is an absence of a comprehensive trade agreement between them. It is true that a full-scale free trade agreement would not fructify as both of them are bound by the pressure from the domestic industries. Still, a well-charted agreement covering points of convergence can significantly boost trade volumes. The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework comprises four pillars - Supply chain, clean energy, combating corruption and regulations concerning labour, environment and digital trade. India has agreed to the first three areas. This is a big

¹³ [Journal of the Centre For Air Power Studies](#)

step towards a comprehensive agreement. Tariffs have remained high, and both countries can mutually work out a solution where they can reduce tariffs in such a manner that the benefit is enjoyed by both of them. US - India Trade Policy Forum can be redesigned to include industry and think tanks, so as to broaden the discussion and create public support for a free trade agreement. It is only through large economic interdependence that relations between them can highly solidify. The United States is one of the few countries with whom India enjoys a trade surplus. In the year 2021-2022, India had a trade surplus of more than thirty billion dollars. The above-recommended trade agreements and partnerships have the opportunity to further increase India's trade surplus with respect to the United States.

- *Defence-*

Counter-terrorism initiatives should be expanded. This can be done by further increasing cooperation among the security agencies of both countries. This cooperation can be in the form of joint exercises and drills among Coastal Guards and City Police. A greater level of cooperation at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the need of the hour. This cooperation could be in the form of creating conditions in order to put international pressure on countries supporting terrorist organizations. Influence and persuade the international community to blacklist countries harbouring and supporting the terrorists. India here requires the influence of the United States to maintain world security and peace. The recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to the signing of several deals for the co-production of ammunition. However, the percentage of technology transfer is not much. The percentage of technology is generally mentioned in the offset deals. Under India's off-set rules, the foreign player has to commit to invest some part of the contract value in the domestic country, this can be in the form of technology transfer, exports, etc. The deal for F14 engines has around 80% of technology transfer but the MQ9B HALE drone deal does not specify any offset clause. Thus the government should create incentives in order to encourage full-scale technology transfers. These incentives could be in the form of tax breaks, eased labour and land laws, etc. For example, The current labour laws are very archaic and put unnecessary restrictions on expansion, hiring and firing. This can discourage industries to employ labour and establish factories. Thus exemptions can be created for these companies so that they can enjoy the ease of doing business. Creating an environment of trust will be the most essential to ensure maximum technology transfer as most foreign defence firms would want their technologies to be protected and prevented from being copied. If India can create confidence among foreign firms with respect to the above factors they may be more open to sharing of technologies.

It is recommended that the government should establish a forum comprising the private sector companies of both countries that are engaged in defence and aerospace production. This forum could

have its summits twice a year, once in India and once in the United States. It should consist of not just big defence firms but also newly emerging startups in this space. The forum and summit could come up with recommendation papers. Their insights and suggestions could be helpful for designing policies regarding defence and aerospace. Also, technology sharing, labour management and efficient methods of operations and production are some of the areas where private-sector collaborations could be fruitful.

- *Multilateral and Regional engagements-*

QUAD has focused on issues like supply chain diversification, climate change, clean energy and regional infrastructure. Unless the private sector is included in the framework full-scale development of the above is impossible. Private sectors from all four countries should be provided with the opportunity to participate in the framework and governments should ensure how they use them in the best manner possible.

Most of the engagements have been at the senior level with meetings between federal secretaries and central ministers. There is an utter lack of engagement and dialogue between the states of both countries. Efforts should be undertaken for summits and meetings between the Governors of American states and the Chief Ministers of Indian states. Also, there is potential for such meetings and dialogues between the Mayors of both countries. This is absolutely necessary as states have become more autonomous and have been active in pursuing large-scale development and rapid economic growth. Relations between Members of Parliament and Congress can be developed by having several exchanges and conferences across the year.

Like QUAD and I2U2 India and the United States can come up with regional engagements, especially in the South-East Asian region. India, the Philippines, Indonesia and the United States can form a regional bloc in Southeast Asia. With the United States undertaking the process to derisk supply chains from China, countries like India, the Philippines, and Indonesia can be benefitted. A permanent grouping of these countries can be helpful in increasing investment and trade among each other. Some of the other areas of cooperation would be joint naval exercises, cooperation in clean energy infrastructure, maritime security and promotion of tourism and agricultural technologies.

India and the United States are a part of several plurilateral agreements like QUAD and I2U2. These groups can be effective in reaching out to the global south by helping them in areas such as health, education, sanitation, clean energy, etc. For eg India and UAE have partnered together for healthcare development in Uganda and Kenya. Israel and the United States can join them in this endeavour. Similarly, the QUAD countries can reach out to the developing and underdeveloped countries of

Southeast Asia and the Pacific Island countries. This can be a much-needed counter to Chinese activities in the global south.

- *Climate Change-*

Climate change and clean energy cooperation have the potential to become the biggest area of cooperation across the world. The emerging focus of both countries in the Indo-Pacific can be a great opportunity for them to lead the region and ensure multilateral cooperation in the field of green hydrogen, carbon removal and industrial decarbonization. A global alliance for green hydrogen can be established with both of them playing a lead role. This alliance could be similar to the International Solar Alliance. Under this alliance, funds could be pulled together to jointly invest in research and development. This alliance would be crucial in connecting green hydrogen technology developers across the world. Concerns related to intellectual property rights with respect to green hydrogen can be settled here. Indian Hydrogen Alliance which is an industry-led body to develop and commercialise green hydrogen can be integrated into the global alliance as their experience, approach and innovations can be used for global good.

- *Education-*

The Indian government has taken the decision to allow foreign universities to set up their campuses in India. Universities from the United States should be encouraged and given incentives and support to help them set up their campuses. This can ensure that Indian students receive a world-class education in their footsteps. Also, the exchange of faculty between the universities will encourage much-needed collaboration with respect to research especially in science and technology.

The United States is known for its advanced research centres and laboratories, especially in the areas such as biotechnology, quantum physics, artificial intelligence, genetics, etc. Indian universities produce a lot of graduates in these areas but they often do not possess good research skills. It is recommended that these research centres should be encouraged to set up their branches and laboratories in Indian universities. This can encourage not just a research culture among Indian students but also significantly increase the quality of research.

Another significant area of cooperation could be joint initiatives for teacher training. Indian teachers are quite undertrained. Many changes are necessary with respect to content, methodology and technological skills. The cooperation could be in the form of working together on setting up a curriculum, teacher exchange initiatives and increasing their digital skills through joint training sessions and seminars.

In recent years India has produced several startups working in the field of Ed-tech. These startups have a huge potential to grow in the United States. However, they need to be updated with the curriculum and pedagogical methods. The Indian government could vouch for these startups to ensure their easy entry into the United States market by negotiating with the United States government to ease regulations for these companies.

Conclusion

From mutual distrust and uneasiness to natural allies and strategic partners, the relationship has seen all. The future is glimmering with hopes that by the middle of the twenty-first century, both countries will view each other as best friends and allies. Even though the path adopted by them has proved to be successful much more effort is required to boost the relationship and end the historical distrust. The points highlighted in the recommendations can prove to be a great help in the process.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the United States from 20th June to 23rd June. The visit includes a White House reception meeting, a private dinner with President Biden and the address to the joint session of the Congress. It will be for the second time that the Prime Minister will address the joint session, the first address had been during his visit in 2016. The honour of addressing the joint session of Congress has been accorded to only a few leaders like Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Israel's Prime Ministers Binyamin Netanyahu and Yitzhak Rabin. The focus of the visit will be to strengthen technological relations in the domains of space, telecommunication and manufacturing. Technology transfers will be the star among them. It is expected that a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap will be outlined after this visit. Space has been a critical bilateral interest in recent years. India has decided to sign the Artemis Accord, which is an American-led space alliance collaboration for the purpose of planetary research and exploration. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have agreed to send a joint mission to the International Space System. These agreements have expanded the range of relations between both countries. This visit has the potential to frame Indo-US relations for the remaining decade.

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