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INDO-US RELATIONS IN THE MODI ERA (2014–2024): STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

NARENDER KUMAR [1] | DR MANOJ KUMAR BHARI [2]

[1] RESEARCH SCHOLAR DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE MLSU UDAIPUR.

[2] ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GOVT.COLLEGE ABU ROAD.

ABSTRACT:

This paper explores the evolution of Indo-US relations at some stage in the Modi era (2014-2024), focusing on the strategic convergence, key areas of cooperation, and rising demanding situations. Under Prime Minister NarendraModi's leadership, Indo-US relations have evolved from a careful partnership right into a strong strategic alliance. Key regions of collaboration encompass protection and security cooperation, financial boom, trade, and technological advancements. Notably, defence trade has considerably elevated, reaching about $18 billion in 2020, and both countries have deepened ties via agreements along with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA). Additionally, the 2 countries have made strides in financial cooperation, with bilateral change accomplishing $one hundred fifty billion in 2022, and technological collaboration has been marked via joint area exploration and renewable power tasks. Despite this development, challenges persist, consisting of exchange imbalances, human rights issues, and geopolitical tensions, specifically with China and Russia. The paper concludes that while those challenges stay, the partnership among India and America is predicted to remain crucial for local and international balance, with each nations persevering with to address their variations diplomatically and capitalizing on shared strategic pastimes.

KEYWORDS:

INDO-US RELATIONS, STRATEGIC ALLIANCE, DEFENCE COOPERATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS.

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INTRODUCTION

Indo-US relations have gone through a splendid transformation inside the Modi era, evolving from a careful partnership to a strategic alliance marked by means of shared pursuits in defence, alternate, and generation (Fleck., 2025). Since Narendra Modi assumed workplace in 2014, India's foreign policy has shifted towards strengthening ties with global powers, in particular the US. The courting, which had historically been characterized through historical tensions, won momentum as each nations recognized the significance of collaboration in addressing regional and worldwide challenges. Modi's leadership has played a essential position in shaping this new section of bilateral members of the family, with a focal point on protection cooperation, economic growth, and technological collaboration.

The strategic partnership between India and America has become pivotal not best for regional stability, especially inside the Indo-Pacific place, however also for addressing international problems along with terrorism, weather change, and economic development. India's developing monetary influence and its strategic function inside the Indo-Pacific have made it a critical accomplice for the USA, which seeks to counter China's growing have an effect on(Mishra, 2024). Despite demanding situations, including alternate disputes and human rights worries, Indo-US members of the family hold to deepen, with both countries committed to improving their cooperation. This paper explores the important thing elements of Indo-US members of the family in the course of the Modi era, focusing on strategic convergence, areas of cooperation, and the rising challenges both international locations face.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND EVOLUTION OF INDO-US RELATIONS

Pre-Modi Era

Indo-US members of the family had been largely described by way of India's non-aligned stance at some stage in the Cold War. While India maintained near ties with the Soviet Union, mainly in defence, its relationship with the United States became regularly strained. India's help for

anti-colonial actions and its refusal to join Western alliances created friction with the United States. Additionally, India's pursuit of nuclear generation, at the same time as no longer geared toward weaponization to start with, further complex ties, with the US viewing India's nuclear aims with suspicion (Pant and Joshi, 2017).

Post-Cold War ThawModi Era: A New Phase

The 1990s marked a shift in Indo-US family contributors, as India began to liberalize its monetary machine. The prevent of the Cold War and India's monetary reforms created new opportunities for cooperation. A considerable milestone got here with the 2005 Indo-US nuclear deal, which allowed India to get proper of access to civilian nuclear technology, regardless of its non-signatory fame to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This settlement marked a pivotal moment, because it signalled a shift in US coverage towards spotting India as an growing global energy. However, tensions remained, especially concerning change troubles, human rights, and nearby safety dynamics(Suhag, 2022).

Under NarendraModi's leadership from 2014, Indo-US family members entered a new section characterised by means of greater strategic and defence cooperation. Modi's foreign coverage focused on strengthening ties with the USA, and each nations prioritized local protection, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. Defence agreements, joint navy sports, and the formation of the Quad (with Japan and Australia) highlighted this new phase of bilateral members of the family(Trademix, 2024). Economic ties, especially in IT, trade, and funding, additionally deepened, marking a stronger partnership between the 2 international locations.

STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE: AREAS OF COOPERATION

Indo-US family members all through the Modi generation are marked by way of vast strategic convergence throughout key sectors like defence, monetary ties, and technological collaboration.

Defence and Security Cooperation

Defence and safety cooperation had been crucial to Indo-US members of the family underneath Modi. In 2020, defence trade between the two countries reached almost $18 billion, a dramatic boom from $1 billion in 2008. Key defence agreements, consisting of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), have deepened navy collaboration, permitting shared get admission to facilities and improving interoperability. The Malabar sporting activities, which began in 1992, have grown significantly, now regarding over 15,000 employees from India, the United States, Japan, and Australia, and are an image of sturdy army cooperation within the Indo-Pacific place (Mann, 2023).

Economic and Trade Relations

Economic members of the family have flourished, with bilateral change achieving approximately $a hundred and fifty billion in 2022, up from $a hundred billion in 2014. The US is considered one of India's largest foreign investors, with cumulative foreign direct funding (FDI) exceeding $50 billion via 2020. India's statistics generation quarter performs a chief position, with IT exports to the US worth over $50 billion in 2021. US organizations like Amazon, Microsoft, and Google also are appreciably invested in India's tech and e-trade markets, contributing to the general boom of alternate and investment(Pant and Joshi, 2017).

Technological Collaboration

Technological collaboration is every other essential component. The US and India have laboured together in space exploration, with the US helping India's Chandrayaan-2 project in 2019. The international locations also are collaborating on renewable power initiatives, such as solar power initiatives. India's purpose of attaining 500 GW of non-fossil fuel power via 2030 is backed by US expertise and investment, mainly through the United States-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force(Abraham and Purushothaman, 2024).

Shared Interests in Global and Regional Affairs

Both countries additionally cooperate in multilateral structures just like the UN, G20, and WTO that specialize in worldwide demanding situations which include climate alternate, health, and counterterrorism. In 2021, they devoted to lowering greenhouse gas emissions underneath the Paris Climate Agreement. Their developing strategic partnership within the Indo-Pacific region targets to ensure open maritime alternate routes and address regional protection demanding situations, solidifying the muse for long-time period collaboration.

EMERGING CHALLENGES IN INDO-US RELATIONS

Despite the developing convergence between India and the USA, numerous demanding situations preserve to form their courting, mainly within the areas of exchange, human rights, and geopolitical tensions(Kumar et al., 2020).

Trade Disputes and Economic Imbalances

One of the prominent challenges in Indo-US members of the family is the alternate imbalance. In 2022, India's exchange deficit with America reached over $30 billion, with issues over tariff guidelines and non-tariff limitations. The US has often criticized India's high import tariffs on American merchandise, especially within the agricultural and high-tech sectors. Despite the developing exchange volume, those economic imbalances continue to be a point of contention, with India in search of greater marketplace get right of entry to for its items at the same time as the United States pushes for alternate reforms and market openness in India(Muni, 2024).

Human Rights and Domestic Policies

Human rights issues have also emerged as a point of tension in Indo-US relations. The US has frequently raised troubles associated with freedom of expression, non-secular freedoms, and minority rights in India.

Reports from international corporations like Human Rights Watch and the United States State Department have criticized policies together with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir. These issues have led to occasional diplomatic friction, as the US emphasizes the significance of democracy and human rights as part of their bilateral members of the family (Iftikhar et al., 2024).

Geopolitical Tensions and Strategic Divergence

Geopolitical tensions, especially with China and Russia, also pose demanding situations to Indo-US relations. While both nations share a commonplace hobby in countering China's growing affect inside the Indo-Pacific, their positions diverge on certain global troubles. India's long-standing relationship with Russia, specifically in protection and power sectors, sometimes conflicts with US rules, that have sought to restriction Russia's worldwide have an effect on. Additionally, India's careful balancing act between its strategic partnership with America and its historic ties with Russia complicates its foreign coverage positioning.

These challenges, even as large, do no longer overshadow the overall strategic convergence among India and the US. Both international locations maintain to navigate these differences with international relations, know-how that their partnership performs a essential function in shaping global balance and local safety (Kumar, 2021).

ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURE TRAJECTORY OF INDO-US RELATIONS

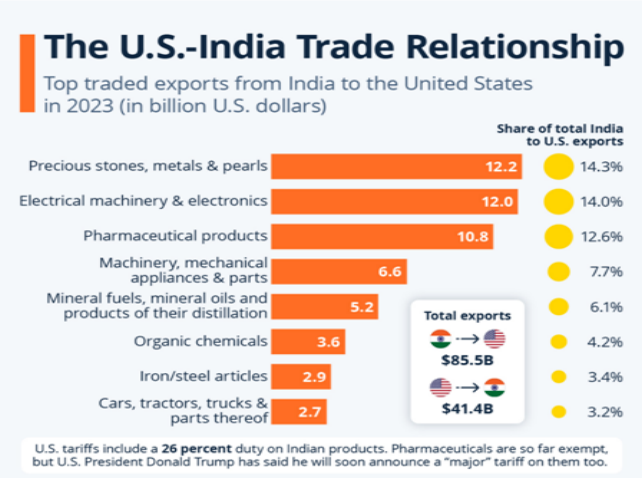
The trajectory of Indo-US family members remains sturdy, underpinned via shared strategic, financial, and technological pastimes. However, several elements will affect the intensity and resilience of this partnership.

Strengthening Strategic Cooperation

Défense and safety collaboration remain critical to the bilateral courting. In 2020, the U.S. And India signed defines agreements really worth over $3 billion. Additionally, India has procured approximately $15 billion in palms from the U.S. Over the last seven years. These trends underscore a deepening army partnership, mainly in countering nearby security challenges(Fleck., 2025).

Economic Growth and Trade Dynamics

Economic ties are poised for in addition increase. In 2024, U.S. Items exports to India totalled $41.8 billion, marking a 3.4% increase from the previous year(Fleck., 2025). Conversely, U.S. Goods imports from India reached $87.4 billion, a 4.5% upward thrust. This trade dynamic highlights India's expanding function inside the international supply chain, mainly in sectors like records technology and pharmaceuticals as defined below in figure 1.



(Source: Fleck, 2025)

Technological Collaboration

The U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET), released in 2023, makes a speciality of areas including synthetic intelligence, quantum technology, and semiconductor deliver chains. This initiative objectives to bolster innovation and deal with global technological challenges collaboratively(Mishra, 2024).

Addressing Emerging Challenges

While the partnership is powerful, demanding situations persist (figure 2). Trade imbalances, especially India's items exchange surplus with the U.S., had been a factor of competition. In 2024, the U.S. Items exchange deficit with India became $45.7 billion. Additionally, geopolitical issues, especially concerning India's family members with Russia, can also have an effect on the bilateral dynamic(Pant and Joshi, 2017).

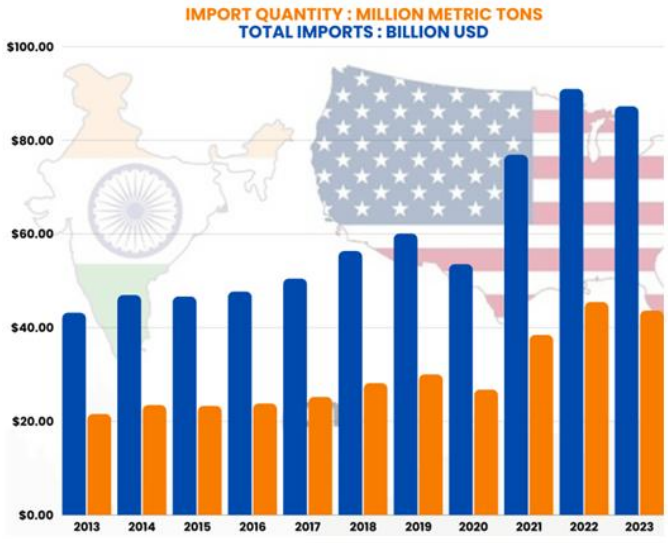


Figure 2: US Imports from India (in last 10 years)

(source: Tradeimex, 2024)

CONCLUSION

Indo-US relations in the Modi generation reflect a good

sized shift toward deeper strategic, monetary, and technological collaboration. Key regions such as defence cooperation, exchange, and technological partnerships have reinforced, with both nations spotting the significance in their alliance in addressing local safety challenges, economic growth, and international troubles like weather alternate and counterterrorism. Despite emerging challenges, which includes trade imbalances and human rights issues, the partnership remains resilient. India's increasing position inside the Indo-Pacific and the USA's interest in India's growing market make certain that the relationship will continue to evolve. With ongoing efforts to manipulate differences and capitalize on shared hobbies, Indo-US members of the family are possibly to stay a cornerstone of each countries' foreign policies, contributing to nearby and international balance.

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