

Evaluating the Dynamics of Indo-USA Relations Under Modi's Administration: The Rise of a Novel Strategic Alliance

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Abstract

This paper endeavors to examine and evaluate the evolving dimensions of Indo-US foreign policy, while also advocating for India's significant role in international politics during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Since 2014, following his official designation, Modi has ardently pursued the transformation of India's inquiries into becoming a distinguished global leader, characterized by adaptability and significant proactive initiatives. The reform of Indian foreign policy, following Nehru, is fundamentally rooted in a modified doctrine aimed at positioning India's foreign policy as exemplary. The concept of 'political capital' represents a novel framework that seeks to connect with other domains. Essential Terms: foreign nations under the leadership of Narendra Modi. In a similar vein, the closeness between India and the United States is of the highest caliber. International relations, geopolitical dynamics, India-United States interactions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, diplomatic efforts, strategic alliances. examine and emphasize the diverse interpretations regarding their diplomatic interactions. Since the inception of Modi's administration, ongoing contemplation regarding Indo-US connectivity has significantly depended on Modi's diplomatic approach in relation to the Obama and Trump administrations. In the progression of the novel. The engineering of foreign policy involving the superpower USA may lead India to become more effective following this approach. Several emerging trends are proving to be more effective in strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the United States. It is evident that the emerging multi-dimensional framework and institutional collaboration within the Indo-US partnership highlight recent developments that suggest a unilateral alignment in strategic partnership. Within the realm of the political engagement between the USA and India, we advance collectively, enhancing strategic ties, embarking on a journey of digital transformation, and formalizing a significant defense partnership. The 2+2 dialogue initiatives, the pursuit of prosperity through collaboration, and the grand events of Howdy Modi and Namaste Trump represent avenues for envisioning a new strategic pathway between the world's largest and oldest democracies. Nonetheless, the previous decade of India's civil nuclear agreement with the United States has significantly elevated the potential for strengthened and assured connections between the two nations. Indo-US partnerships in the protracted endeavour. However, Modi's comprehension of power and interests regarding. The account of bilateral and multilateral agreements with US counterparts highlights the evolving dynamics. The perspective on India's foreign policy. This paper endeavours to analyze the trajectory of Indo-USA relations and its implications for the international environment.

Key Words: New Foreign Policy, India-USA Relations, Narendra Modi, Diplomacy, Strategy Partnership, National Interest, Global Politics

Introduction

Since India's independence, the political relationship between India and the United States has consistently been regarded as significant, particularly in terms of their cooperation across economic, strategic, and diplomatic dimensions. The former President of the United States, George W. Bush, once articulated that, "India and the United States are separated by half of a globe." "Yet today our two nations find themselves in a state of unprecedented proximity" (Roberts, 2005). This assertion by Bush distinctly highlighted the burgeoning future relationship between the two nations, emphasizing their role as significant strategic partners.

Nehru had earlier indicated in a 1949 speech to the US Congress that "Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries are natural" (Embassy of India, Washington DC, 1949). The progressive evolution of Indo-US proximity can be illustrated by encompassing three major areas of collaboration that significantly impact structural, domestic, and individual leadership dimensions, hence transforming Indo-US ties during the past seven decades. In response to the structural alliance resulting from the Cold War, the Indian nationalist leader engaged in pragmatic collaboration with the US administration. Simultaneously, India's internal relationship with the US is mostly anchored in economic assurances. At the individual level, the political leaders of India and the United States generated immediate political capital to foster an environment conducive to the realization of the Indo-US partnership (Kapur, 2010). The three levels of overview between India and the United States signify a novel trend in their foreign policy viewpoints, transitioning from the Cold War era to the Modi administration. Indo-US bilateral relations in the 21st century have clearly transitioned into a Global Strategic Partnership, founded on shared democratic values and an increasing alignment on bilateral, regional, and global issues (The White House of the Press Secretary, USA, 2015). Since the BJP-led NDA Modi Government assumed power in 2014, India's political class has significantly shifted its attention towards fostering a strategic partnership with the United States, emphasizing development and effective governance. Specifically, establish an opportunity to reinforce bilateral relations and enhance the cooperative ethos under the premise of "Forward Together We Go into Action" through "Shared Efforts and Progress for All." This productive outcome emerged from the political framework established during institutional engagements between both countries in September 2014 and January 2015, respectively. To re-establish diplomatic relations with the USA, Modi's administration has facilitated frequent high-profile political visits between the two nations, hence sustaining momentum in their bilateral cooperation and extensive discussion framework. Currently, India-US bilateral cooperation encompasses a wide range of sectors, including commerce and investment, civil nuclear energy, space technology, defense and security, science and technology, and clean energy. For the first time, Modi's Government has restructured its vision to transform India, emphasizing development priorities and possibilities to strengthen Indo-US economic relations, regional and global stability, and worldwide economic growth. In this context, President Obama reaffirmed the United States' willingness to collaborate with India in this development.

Historical Outline

As democratic nations, both the USA and India possess a foreign policy perspective that is more consequential than that of any other country globally. The USA is recognized as the oldest democratic nation in terms of governance, whereas India is noted as the largest democratic nation by population in the contemporary world (Singh, 2017). Following the establishment of the Republic of India, Jawaharlal Nehru articulated to his parliamentary colleagues that “India not only represented progressive democracy domestically but also internationally ... it has persistently been integral to our policy in remote regions of the world” (Singh, 2018: 10). Nehru’s statement significantly influenced India’s identity as a democracy. He aspired to leverage this identity as a foreign policy priority in his interactions with the global community. In 2000, US President William Bill Clinton affirmed in the Indian Parliament that the concept of ‘virtues of Democracy’ is a shared ideological value that unites both India and the USA (Scott, 2011). The Democratic norms of both countries have positively influenced foreign policy for seven decades, fostering mutual cooperation and attitudes that are likely to establish a new world order and balance, thereby ensuring peace and tranquility, particularly in South Asia and the Asia Pacific region. The Indo-U.S. relationship has evolved from the outset based on three critical parameters: ideology, strategy, and values. Consequently, India’s foreign policy initiative has undergone changes in relation to its domestic, regional, and international structural domains. Based on this characteristic, Indian foreign policy established a framework.

Following the onset of the Cold War, India’s foreign policy adopted a revised approach to its national interests in global politics, notably reflecting the rapid transformations in Indo-US ties. Subsequently, two significant parallel trends have been widely observed: the endeavor to surmount Western intellectual supremacy and the inconsequential significance of NAM in superpower rivalry. During P.V. Rao’s tenure as Prime Minister, India undertook a series of reforms aimed at liberalizing its economy, with the objective of expanding its previously constrained economic framework to facilitate greater accumulation of Western capital, following the recommendations of Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister of India (Malone, 2010: 164-165). After a duration of 24 years, India conducted its second round of nuclear tests in May 1998, executing five underground detonations at the Pokhran range and proclaiming itself a nuclear-weapon state. This incident no longer isolates India from the global stage, particularly in relation to the U.S. administration. Consequently, President Clinton and his administration promptly enacted an economic sanction against India. In this stressful scenario, numerous high-level bilateral discussions have been occurring to transform the Indo-American discourse from hostile to conventional. C. Raja Mohan stated that India’s second nuclear test in 1998 marked the conclusion of the country’s worldwide aloofness. They established the fundamental framework for reestablishing any type of global nuclear order and enhanced our collaboration with the United Nations (The Economic Times, 2018).

The state visit of US President Clinton to India in March 2000 was a watershed moment in the dynamic shift between the two countries. Following the turn of the century, the administrations of both Clinton and Vajpayee pledged to establish a future vision program to improve Indo-US bilateral relations by fostering shared pursuits of democracy, freedom, prosperity, and peace. “Vision for the 21st century” is the best way to explain this baby step forward. The moment

they realized that they could pull off a lot of extraordinary and unsavory plans if they worked together. During their conversation, they reached the consensus that the United States and India are today two democracies operating on separate fronts to support bilateral and international efforts. But frequent linkage between India and the US will greatly ease trade; take advantage of investment prospects in the economic sector, IT, infrastructure, biotech, and services. In addition, the two governments have chosen to establish a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment. This group will mainly focus on collaborative projects, research and development of clean energy technologies, the promotion of a mixed economy, the mitigation of climate change, and other environmental concerns (US Department of States).

Background on the Indo-US Relationship (2001–2014): Following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City (9/11) and the Indian Parliament (13/12) in 2001, the Indo-US relationship experienced a dramatic upturn. Consequently, the US-Indian relationship quickly stabilized in preparation for a coordinated response to the threat of fundamental terrorism. This historical upheaval had an unforeseen and negative impact on the function of government machinery, which in turn presented a problem with the deteriorating security capacity system. Shortly after taking office, Bush's administration pushed for his "War against Terror" proclamation, which calls for action to combat terrorism. Combating collective security threats and other forms of mass murder that cause widespread human suffering and create an immediate need is everyone's responsibility (US Department of States, 2001). Following the terrorist attack on the Indian parliament on December 13, 2001, the US government exerted significant pressure on Pakistan to halt cross-border terrorism near India's border. If the Indo-US strategic cooperation is to be strengthened, 2004 might be a watershed year. Together, the United States and India began formulating their Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) strategy at the beginning of January. The acronym stands for a number of things, including a civil nuclear program, a civilian space collaboration, advanced trade deal procedures, and more discussion about the missile defense system. That the Indo-US strategic alliance is now a reality was a complementary reference from the Bush and Manmohan Singh administrations. More collaboration on economic, energy security, and strategic fronts is inevitable. Both sides in this strategic alliance are committed to helping create their respective nations, which bodes well for the development of strong connections over the long run (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India).

India- USA Relations under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi (From 2014 Ahead)			
SL NO.	INDO-US RELATIONSHIP IN THE MODI'S ADMINISTRATION	PROGRAMME / BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH USA	YEAR
1	Modi's First Visit to USA	A Joint conclave on vision for making "Chalein Saath Saath or Forward Together We Go"	2014
2	President Barack Obama Trip to India	A Shift for Improving Indo-US Strategic Tie	2015
3	Modi's Second Visit to USA	Tour for Digital Transformation and Technology Tie	2015

4	Modi's Third Visit to USA	Fourth Nuclear Summit	2016
5	Modi's Fourth Visit USA	USA speak out India as a Major Defence Partner	2016
6	Modi's' Fifth Visit to America	First Meeting between Modi and Trump	2017
7	First Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue	Focused on Defence and Strategic Cooperation issues	2018
8	Modi's Sixth Visit to USA	Howdy Modi Event : Shared Dreams and Bright	2019
9	Second Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue	Futures Rebuilding enduring Defence Partnership for 21st Century	2019
10	President Donald Trump Tour to India	Namaste Trump Programme: A Mega event for	2020
		exchanging Bilateral Dimensions	

The International Atomic Energy Agency proposed this deal on August 1, 2008. That same year, India made history by becoming the first member of a powerful claim formed at a summit of 48 nations whose members committed to maintaining extensive trade and nuclear access exchange with India. For example, India was able to meet the necessary qualifications to apply for membership at the NSG after the 2008 civil nuclear accord with the US was finalized (Sahu, 2020). The Indo-US joint conclave also committed to keeping an eye on developments in the fields of communication, information technology, and education at different points in time. However, the "Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative" was put into effect in real-time during Manmohan Singh's mentorship and 2009 Washington visit. This is an effort by two democracies to strengthen their faculty development programs at different universities. Defining the national security and strategic discourse on June 1- 4th, 2010, the Indo-US strategic handshake manual gained current traction with Obama's inauguration. The commitment to broad-based partnership, including non-proliferation, was reaffirmed by this articulation, which took precedence.

The US-Indian Relationship Under Modi's Presidency: A Shift in Indian Foreign Policy Once again, without a coalition partner at the Centre, a one-man administration was formed in the 2014 election in India, following the 1984 general election. As the head of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Narendra Modi was elected as India's fourteenth prime minister on May 26, 2014. There were three main tenets of Modi's unconventional political campaign: (1) making India a corruption-free nation; (2) raising the living standards of the common man; and (3) standardizing the Indian economy. While doing so, he also makes an effort to sway India's foreign policy, in particular its exchanges with other nations. Following his historic electoral triumph, he continued to do his utmost to forge amicable relations with neighboring countries and regions. His leadership transformed India's foreign policy, elevating it from the mundane to the remarkable through its diplomatic outreach to states large and small across the continent and the hemisphere (Malhotra, 2019). Put simply, ever since he became the head of India's parliament, Modi has focused all of his mental and physical resources on the country's foreign policy. Despite only being in office for a year, the administration, his backers, and the people of Indian descent all worked together.

According to spokespersons, the Prime Minister Modi is bringing a fresh energy and a new direction to India's international affairs (Economic and Political Weekly, 2016). Apart from social media and the political regime, Modi's international outreach is just as deserving of praise as his domestic performance. From the get-go, Modi's orders about India's international relations are likely to be kept out of the public eye and the spotlight of the media. His subsequent actions were mostly promoted through the media interface, which may have been more outspoken regarding the concepts of political capital. Since Modi's new attitude and techniques have already sent shockwaves around the globe, his foreign policy is shaping up to be his signature (ibid). In this picture, Modi's mantra of "Shining India" to become a global superpower has significantly altered India's foreign policy. In addition, Modi's proactive foreign policy has revived India's flagging diplomatic fortunes, won over allies, and revitalized economic policies on a global, regional, and national scale.

Many saw Modi's entry into the realm of international travel as India's internal push toward greater global connection. 'Shining India' would have been the moniker given to India's foreign affairs during his historic visits to other countries, including meetings with US President Barack Obama, addresses to the UNGA, participation in the BRICS summit in Brazil, ASEAN summits in Myanmar, and the G20 summit in Australia. Some have questioned if the so-called "Modi doctrine" is actually the new direction of Indian foreign policy in light of Modi's actions (Hall, 2015). Domestically, Modi's political priorities identified three key areas of activity, and these have informed his foreign policy. First, when it comes to India's economic development, strengthening the country's foreign ties with other states, particularly in East Asia, Second, making matters worse for India's national security in relation to China and Pakistan, Finally, bolstering New Delhi's international reputation and influence by elevating India's soft power standing in the West and developing nations.

Fascinatingly, Modi has prioritized economics in his foreign policy theory, with the goal of forging stronger relations with the Indian diaspora in countries like the United States and Australia, which is home to many talented, creative, and financially abundant people. In the context of India's foreign policy, three priority topics emerged during the Modi administration's six months in office. (1) A firm stance on foreign policy, particularly in dealing with Pakistan; (2) Proactive economic engagement with possible investors including the EU, Japan, and China; and (3) A stronger strategic partnership with the US and Japan to counteract China in the area. As a manufacturing hub for multinational firms, he persuaded other countries to contribute foreign direct investment (FDI) in self-building programs like "Make in India." These companies hoped to expand their product lines by bringing new technologies and industries to India. When it comes to dealing with South Asian countries, India's domestic reforms have helped strengthen economic relations and increase connectivity in the world's least integrated area (Kumar, 2014: 101). Maybe the Modi government has been trying to leverage the political handshake with the US to strengthen and expand their engagement in bilateral and multilateral talks, which have taken on a new form. The official statement of the India-US strategic alliance under Modi's government is shown in the graphic. During Modi's maiden trip to the United States, he will attend a joint conclave to discuss the future of "Chalein Saath Saath, or Forward Together We Go." After taking office as India's prime minister, Modi made history on September 24, 2014, on his first visit to the United States,

when he met with President Barack Obama. By releasing a vision statement titled “Chalein Saath Saath or Forward together we go,” the two presidents have jointly unveiled a detailed plan for the India-US relationship. These days, when Indians visit the United States, the conversation centers on a variety of topics, including the unique challenges that have recently arisen in their relationship. In order to address several areas of cooperation, Modi and Obama had already agreed to create a strategic alliance. During the meeting, the Presidents of India and the United States expressed their common goals of achieving nuclear disarmament in a way that is both universally verifiable and non-discriminatory, as well as their shared views on counterterrorism, technology, and security. Their foreign exchange has been on an additional roller coaster ride since this commitment. In the middle of this, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with prominent US business leaders and urged them to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) in India (The White House Press Secretary, USA, 2014). On the other side, they rekindled their long-lost closeness and shared commitment to working together for the benefit of all parties involved in order to address bilateral, regional, and global concerns with a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. Modi and Obama inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Indian Energy Agency and the Export-Import Bank in Washington. Truly, the focus of Modi’s first visit to the Obama administration is on the transformational partnership as a reliable partner in the twenty-first century, driven by a shared vision.

A Change in the Indo-US Strategic Bond: President Obama’s Visit to India

The Modi government extended a warm invitation to President Obama to visit India as a distinguished guest in honor of the 66th Republic Day. During his historic three-day visit from January 25th to the 27th, 2015, the United States and India marked a turning point in their bilateral relations and, more specifically, in their efforts to establish strategic partnerships. The inevitable goal of these two leaders’ official interaction was to initiate a formal diplomatic bond and address their primary agenda items in a more amicable manner. During their meeting, the two parties discussed important, substantive issues, which set the stage for future success and helped to pinpoint potential points of contention, allowing them to move forward more quickly. Upon proper acknowledgment as a **“Game-Changing Phenomenon”** in terms of both Indo-US respect and understanding. What they perceive as “enhancing the relationship’s nature” is this method of rearmoring. The Indo-US relationship, according to Reiner, “creates an opportunity to promote both administrations forward”.

When asked about “the incredibility of Indo-US combination not only refresh US national interest but also very crucial about the people and their people leader,” Obama also genuinely made the claim. The idea that this might serve as a foundation for “Going forward, we have a very robust agenda” was reiterated by Reiner (India Today, 2015). On the other hand, Obama’s trip was billed as a “strategic improvement of the knot,” with discussions centering on energy, nuclear power, defense, climate change, counter-terrorism, and investment, among other important topics. Furthermore, as two of the world’s most prominent democracies, India and the United States have maintained their bilateral interaction throughout the past few years, which has mostly served to reaffirm their determination to forge a new partnership in the coming century (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2015). A comprehensive

articulation of a unified approach to regional security concerns, the deal on “US-India joint the strategic vision for Asia Specific and the Indian Ocean” was signed by both India and the US during this tour. In fact, for the entire Asia and its future power balance, this bilateral interaction represents a new strategic acquisition. According to the White House Office of the Press Secretary (2015), this is the rebalancing plan of Modi’s government, which involves India becoming a partner of the USA.

With USA Second Phase by Modi: A Journey of Digital Transformation and Technological Cooperation: A year down the road, Modi planned yet another American visit to take part in the United Nations General Assembly’s 70th annual session. Modi spoke with the leaders of three other significant nations—Brazil, Japan, and Germany—during his tour. These countries are collectively known as the G-4. There has been no major change to the UN Security Council since 2005, according to the heads of these four nations. Nonetheless, the UNSC’s effective reformation was the result of numerous efforts. The heads of state from the four G-4 nations argued that their countries were qualified to serve on the UN Security Council since they had helped bring the charter’s goals and ideals to fruition (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2015). In addition to this, the ‘Digital Transformation and Technology Tie’ with the US has also been a priority for Modi’s administration. “The Silicon Valley” forum was a difficult event for Modi, but it brought attention to the effectiveness of India’s digital economy in dealing with the outside world. In this meeting, Modi discussed the potential of India’s massive market with American CEOs, including Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Elon Musk of Tesla, and Sundar Pichai of Google. During his time at the forum, he focused on one goal in particular: to help make India’s government more predictable, transparent, and responsible through the use of technology and innovation. In addition, they have specified the infrastructure and industrial industries as potential investment destinations in India and the other way around.

Modi’s Nuclear Security Summit: A Measure for National Security Initiative: During Modi’s inaugural visit to the US in September 2014, it was evident that both nations concurred to establish a Contract Group to resolve all implementation issues, encompassing administrative, liability, technical, and licensing matters, to facilitate the development of the nuclear industry in India. This Contract Group is primarily facilitating the comprehensive and prudent implementation of the ‘Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement’ (Pant & Joshi, 2017:138). On 31st March 2016, Modi commenced a significant visit to the United States to attend the fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. At this summit, Modi was confronted with 52 heads of state for the first time, primarily to exchange their assessments regarding the threat posed by nuclear weapons and materials. This Summit has been functioning since 2010, occurring biennially (Milan et al., 2016). Gill asserts that India is anticipated to foster heightened awareness among nations regarding the threats of nuclear terrorism and the need for international collaboration to combat both terrorism and nuclear trafficking (The Times of India, 2016). The primary objective of this negotiation was to direct leadership focus towards the worldwide threat of nuclear terrorism. Leaders were also strategically focused on enhancing planned actions and reinforcing nuclear security at the international level. Simultaneously implement measures for the prevention of terrorism and the prudent management of nuclear arsenals.

The Indo-US Strategic Alignment

Transition from General to Principal Defence Partner: Historically, defense cooperation between India and the USA has not garnered much attention. The relationship remained consistent, akin to previous partnerships established through numerous soft joint exercises, regular high-level bilateral discussions, and substantial defense transactions. This primarily stems from a flawed comprehension of one another concerning defense issues. The USA is highly regarded for its hybrid and efficient defense system technology. In this regard, India has exercised caution in its efforts to enhance its defense cooperation collaboration with the USA. Since 2005, a more proximate defense system has been established, and two states have concurred on a decade-long framework for defense cooperation. During the initial two years of the Modi administration, defense cooperation re-emerged as a vital element in India's bilateral relations. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) of India has emerged as an active participant in seeking expedited collaboration with the United States (Pant & Joshi, 2017:139). On June 7, 2016, the Indo-US Joint Agreement was negotiated, emphasizing their shared interests in developing challenges such as nuclear energy, national security, and climate change. However, a prominent aspect of their engagement was the defense accord, wherein the US designated India as a 'Major Defense Partner,' and both nations collaboratively advanced technology assistance, solidifying their status as close allies and partners. This is a significant advancement in Indo-US defense relations, wherein India has positioned itself on same footing with America's close allies regarding defense agreements and technology transfer. Subsequently, both Obama and Modi affirmed that the Indo-US defense alliance could serve as a stabilizing pillar and would represent a progressive enhancement of collaboration in the defense sector. India's Foreign Secretary J. Jaishankar stated, "We will act as an intimate friend or collaborator of the US, which in turn facilitates improved, productive, and rapid technological advancements in the defense sector, as well as normative access to the contentious aspects." The beneficial outcome of this bilateral agreement is that India secures a new opportunity to access and utilize US defense technologies extensively. These facilities would facilitate India's advancement of bilateral defense cooperation in tangible manners.

As John Earnest accurately asserted There was a notable enhancement in the conclusion of defense logistics, the exchange of marine information, and the compliance of US aircraft in India.

Modi's Fifth Visit to the USA: A Progression Towards Prosperity through Collaboration. Subsequently, Donald Trump's serious appeal to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi culminated in Modi's official state visit to the United States on June 25, 2017. This may have been the inaugural formal meeting between Modi and his US counterpart, Donald Trump. Initially, both leaders discussed their own aims and worries about their collaboration. Sean Spicer, White House Press Secretary, identified several significant common issues, including countering terrorist threats, enhancing free and fair trade, strengthening energy connections, defense collaboration, law enforcement, and global cooperation. The promotion of peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific Region is another critical issue that requires urgent resolution. In addition, the concept of 'prosperity via cooperation' is the most prominent topic in global reconstruction and development, as stated by both leaders (India Today, 2017). First Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue: An In-Depth Discussion to Strengthen Foreign and Defense

Policy Matters: In June 2017, the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue was proposed for the first time during the Washington Summit. On September 6th and 7th, 2018, India hosted its inaugural Indo-US 2+2 conversations as the convener. Shusma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitharaman, India's Foreign Minister and Defence Minister, respectively, met with their American counterparts, Michael Pompeo and James Mattis, the US Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. This is a high-profile ministerial summit addressing overall developmental concerns, mostly concerning security, strategy, defense, economy, trade, and particularly the importation of Iranian oil (Mallick, 2018). Consequently, the Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was effectively operationalized to enhance India's advanced military standing. The Communications and Information Security Memorandums of Agreement (CISMOA) was also enacted as legislation governing the sale of U.S. military equipment (ibid: 8). The significant discourse mostly centered on the finalization of a memorandum of intent between the US Defense Innovation Units and the Indian Defence Innovation Organization - Innovation for Defence, Excellence (DIO-iDEX) - on new alignment in defense innovation. It highlighted an agreement between the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Indian Navy aimed at enhancing maritime cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean. The aforementioned pact will enhance naval cooperation between India and the USA across Asia, particularly considering the divergent perspectives of the UN and India toward the Indo-Pacific region.

Nirmala Sitaraman, the Defence Minister of India, articulated that the 2+2 meeting represents a significant advancement in the defence alliance between India and the USA, reinforcing Modi's vision that "India's relationship with the US has transcended historical indecision." It is evident that the genuine alignment during the Cold War, particularly concerning the former USSR and US actions against India, was largely influenced by India's nuclear program. The prevailing consensus in both bilateral engagements is that the Indo-US partnership has consistently pursued initiatives aimed at fostering regional stability and safeguarding national security interests, marking significant milestones in the defense sector concerning Indo-US relations.

Modi's Sixth Visit to the USA: A Significant Occasion 'Howdy Modi' for Collective Aspirations and Promising Tomorrows: India On September 22, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump convened a momentous gathering at the NRG Stadium in Houston, attracting an audience of around 50,000 individuals. This significant gathering serves as a community summit organized by the Texas India Forum (TIF). This moment is characterized as pivotal, symbolizing the enduring commitment of both leaders to a progressively strengthening alliance. This grand occasion serves to recognize the significant contributions of the Indo-American community to the cultural, intellectual, and social landscape of the United States. It further fosters the organizational endeavors of the Indo-American community, particularly emphasizing shared democratic values, inclusive economic development, and mutual respect among its members (Ananda, 2019). During his address in Houston, Modi confidently declared to a substantial audience that India is currently embracing the paramount principle of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikash,' which aptly encapsulates the vision for a New India (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2019). Once more, Stephanie Grisham, the White House Press Secretary, articulates that "The collaboration between Modi and Trump at the Howdy Modi Programme will serve as a significant platform

to highlight the connection between the citizens of the USA and India, affirming a new strategic alliance between the world's oldest and largest democracies, paving the way for strengthening energy and trade partnerships." This occasion significantly underscores the value and importance of global peace, prosperity, and human progress, effectively embodying the concept of 'Shared Dreams with Bright Futures' (Hindustan Times, 2019). The distinctive alliance between India and the United States inevitably introduces a novel dimension to contemporary global politics, characterized by the flourishing of their shared agreements through a collaborative approach.

Second 2+2 Indo-US Dialogue

Reinforcing a Lasting Defense Alliance for the 21st Century: Following the conclusion of the inaugural 2+2 ministerial-level meeting between India and the USA in 2017, the subsequent round of discussions took place on December 18th, 2019, in Washington D.C. During the second 2+2 meeting, Indian Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh engaged in discussions with U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper. The dialogue reinforced the elevated strategic alliance between the United States and India. The dialogue further articulates several pivotal areas of engagement, including democratic values, robust interpersonal connections, and a shared dedication to citizen prosperity, trade policy, counter-terrorism, and the role in the Indo-Pacific region. The secretary and his counterpart have engaged in discussions to expedite their shared vision for the 21st century concerning defense collaboration. The four ministers, in a spirit of optimism, assess the developing partnership between India and the United States, which aspires to be rooted in mutual trust and camaraderie. They have likewise demonstrated their active willingness and dedication by signing Tri-service facilities in the defense mechanism. The enhancement of information sharing, the expansion of defense trade, and the promotion of defense collaboration represent a spectrum of activities and initiatives aimed at fortifying the new framework of Indo-US defense relations.

collaboration (US Department of States, 2019). In contemplating the future, efforts will be made to enhance bilateral relations in the realm of defense, with the aim of establishing a framework for a major defense partnership between the United States and India, to be developed collaboratively in a joint session in the early 21st century. Moreover, this ministerial-level engagement represents a significant initiative aimed at establishing a groundbreaking and sustained future defense relationship for their earlier days.

The visit of Trump to India represents a significant occasion, aptly titled 'Namaste Trump,' aimed at fortifying the bilateral relations between India and the United States. On February 24th and 25th, 2020, President Donald Trump of the United States embarked on a two-day state visit to India, following a warm invitation from Prime Minister Modi to participate in the grand event known as 'Namaste Trump'. The Namaste Trump event was a grand occasion held at the Motera Stadium, the largest cricket stadium in the world, located in Ahmedabad. In the presence of a vast audience and esteemed dignitaries, Modi commenced his remarks by characterizing Trump as an individual who embodies the notion of 'thinking big.' He exemplifies diligence and possesses the aspiration to actualize the aspirations of the American populace, a fact that is apparent to the global community" (Times of India, 2020). Furthermore,

Modi graciously acknowledged that the camaraderie between India and the USA has been rejuvenated under the leadership of President Donald Trump and his momentous visit to Indian territory. This will serve as substantial evidence to initiate a new phase in the Indo-US bilateral relationship. The initiation of this dialogue from Trump's perspective highlighted that the relationship between India and the United States is fundamentally rooted in the principles of unity in diversity and diversity in unity. Despite their common principles, the Statue of Liberty, enduring peace, scientific advancement, innovation, opportunities, and challenges must coexist in equal measure, even while being separated by two distinct subcontinents, as articulated by Trump. The conflict against radical fundamentalism and Islamic terrorism stands as a paramount concern, alongside the imperative of liberating the Indo-specific region from external constraints, which has inevitably emerged as a priority for our strategic considerations (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 2022).

During the 'Namaste Trump' mega-event, President Trump articulated a defense agreement with India, encompassing the sale of attack helicopters and anti-submarine warfare technology, with an estimated value of around \$3 billion. Previously, the defense sector of the USA engaged in transactions totaling 18 billion dollars with the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, since 2008. Moreover, the bilateral relations between India and the United States have evolved into a comprehensive global strategic partnership, signifying a strong alignment aimed at distancing China from the interests of the Indo-Pacific region. Consequently, this official visit by Trump appeared to hold greater significance, facilitating enhanced camaraderie and fortifying the Indo-US partnership (Ladwig, 2020). The continuity of the Trump administration regarding India is evident, particularly in relation to enhancing defense interoperability and mutual security assistance in the Indo-Pacific region. This represents a significant contribution of the Trump administration to India, particularly in the context of India-US relations under the leadership of both Modi and Trump.

Conclusion

From the discourse, it can be concluded that under the enigmatic leadership of Narendra Modi, the Indo-US strategic partnership has gained renewed momentum, aimed at revising, revitalizing, and restructuring India's foreign policy in the current era. The defining characteristic of Modi's ascent on the global stage is significantly influenced by India's diplomatic strategy, internal capabilities, and his congenial relations with numerous world leaders. Nonetheless, regarding the Indo-US relationship, one cannot expect a consistently positive foreign affair, nor can it be deemed entirely negative, as it is bound to experience various fluctuations. Notwithstanding this, the Indo-US foreign policy has reached new heights under the stewardship of Modi. Furthermore, the examination of Indo-US relations can be significantly enhanced following Modi's assumption of his official role as Prime Minister. A set of variables examines the dynamics of India's foreign policies, particularly in relation to the Indo-US relationship. Since the dawn of independence, the relationship between India and the USA has evolved significantly, reflecting the dynamics of the oldest and largest democracies in the world. Consequently, their interactions predominantly manifested in the transformation of democratic norms and values, as well as the interplay between unity and diversity, both within and beyond the global context. However, regarding Modi's foreign

relations with the USA, two significant issues have emerged that warrant serious consideration in their interactions. To begin with, it is essential to concentrate on addressing the unresolved bilateral issues concerning nuclear liability and the defense agreement with the United States. Secondly, to overcome the prolonged visa restrictions imposed on Narendra Modi by the United States. The bilateral discussions between India and the USA regarding the articulation of a vision for the 21st century represent a significant aspect of India's foreign policy, which aptly underscores the importance of strengthening relations with the USA while also maintaining a degree of continuity with neighboring countries. Conversely, the neighborhood policy under Modi serves as a significant reference point for enhancing India's involvement in the Indo-Asia Pacific region as well as its relations with West Asia. During the Covid-19 pandemic, India's initiative to convene high-level discussions with SAARC countries represents a significant advancement in the core of its foreign policy. It is widely acknowledged as the foundational method to express the affirmative disposition of India. Once more, the unequivocal endorsement from Trump's administration for India's accession to the G-11 represents a significant advancement in the strategic partnership between India and the United States.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the strategic appointments between India and the United States have experienced a significant transformation characterized by their comprehensive agreements. The nature and essence of Modi's diplomacy have similarly introduced a distinctive quality to the bilateral relationships, particularly with the Obama and Trump administrations. The recent dynamics of the Indo-US relationship have underscored the significance of both bilateral and multilateral commitments, emphasizing a systematic approach to various strategic consultations. These encompass areas such as defense, counter-terrorism, homeland security, cyber security, intelligence cooperation, energy, education, science and technology, public health, and cultural exchange. Following Nehru, Modi's leadership and his assured persona with the administrations of the USA have notably broadened the dimensions of their mutual engagement, reflecting the evolving balance of power in South Asia. The alliance between Washington and New Delhi seems to hold greater importance in their financial and trade reforms following the dissolution of the Indo-USA Business Council.

The economic landscape of both nations presents a promising avenue for foreign direct investment. This represents a significant advancement; however, it remains insufficient if the United States' exports to India continue to be constrained by regulatory and policy limitations. The ministerial-level summit, characterized by the 2+2 dialogue between the USA and India, represents a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the defense sectors of both nations. In the context of the 21st century, the significant strategic partnership between India and the USA is not merely a reflection of democratic principles but encompasses a broader array of essential attributes. In this endeavor, the administration of Obama articulated that the United States government has indeed prioritized continuity in its bilateral relationships by acknowledging shared democratic values, evident economic strength, and a prospective role in the broader context of balancing power in South Asia. However, two significant developments, namely the Howdy Modi event and Namaste Trump, are fostering a collaborative approach to shaping the evolving landscape of global affairs. With India's financial influence, cultural wealth, and political clout, a significant position in global affairs has emerged following Narendra Modi's

selection as the nation's parliamentary leader. In a similar vein, the convergence of Indo-US defense relations represents a significant evolution in their bilateral engagement, effectively redefining and recognizing India as the foremost defense partner of the United States.

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