



India US Strategic Partnership

For Prelims: [US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology](#), [India Semiconductor Mission](#), [Bharat 6G](#), [Indian Space Research Organization](#), [GE's F414 combat aircraft](#), [India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem](#), [Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence](#), [Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement](#), [Indian Ocean Dialogue](#), [UN Security Council](#), [WTO](#), [Biofuels](#)

For Mains: Areas of Cooperation Between India and US

Why in News?

The **Indian Prime Minister** was on a significant visit to the [United States of America](#).

- The visit aimed to **strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries** and focused on **addressing common challenges, taking a stand on global issues, collaborating in [critical emerging technologies](#), promoting [sustainable development](#), and transitioning towards [clean energy](#).**

What are the Areas of Cooperation Highlighted During the Visit?

- **Strengthening Semiconductor Supply Chains: Micron Technology**, with support from the [India Semiconductor Mission](#), will invest in a new semiconductor assembly and test facility in India.
 - Applied Materials will establish a **Semiconductor Centre for Commercialization and Innovation in India** to enhance the diversification of the semiconductor supply chain.
 - Lam Research will train **60,000 Indian engineers through its "Semiverse Solution"** to accelerate India's semiconductor education and workforce development goals.
- **Advanced Telecommunications: India and the US have established public-private Joint Task Forces** on the development and deployment of **Open RAN systems and advanced telecoms research and development**.
 - [Bharat 6G](#) from India and the **US Next G Alliance** will co-lead the public-private research, aiming to reduce costs, enhance security, and improve the resiliency of telecommunication networks.

Note: Open RAN, also known as **Open Radio Access Network**, is a concept and approach to **designing and implementing radio access networks in telecommunications**. It aims to introduce greater **openness, flexibility, and interoperability into traditional RAN architectures** by **decoupling hardware and software components and promoting multi-vendor integration**.

- **NASA-ISRO Collaboration in Space:** India has signed the **Artemis Accords**, joining 26 other countries committed to **peaceful, sustainable, and transparent cooperation for space exploration**.
 - NASA will provide **advanced training to [Indian Space Research Organization \(ISRO\)](#) astronauts**, with the goal of a joint effort to the **International Space Station in 2024**.

- A strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation between **NASA and ISRO is being developed by the end of 2023.**
- **Quantum, Advanced Computing, and Artificial Intelligence:** The **Joint Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism** has been established to facilitate joint research on [quantum technology](#), [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), and **advanced wireless technologies.**
 - Joint collaboration on trustworthy and responsible AI, including **generative AI**, will promote AI education, workforce initiatives, and commercial opportunities.
 - India's leadership as **Chair of the Global Partnership on AI** was commended, and **Google's investment in Indian startups and AI research centre** was appreciated.
- **Fibre Optics Investments:** **Sterlite Technologies Limited from India** has invested USD 100 million in constructing a [optical fibre cable manufacturing unit near Columbia, South Carolina](#), facilitating **USD 150 million in annual exports of optical fiber from India.**
- **Cutting-edge Research:** The **US National Science Foundation has joint research collaborations** with India's Department of Science and Technology.
 - A cooperative arrangement has been signed with **India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** to promote emerging technologies.
- **Innovation Handshake:** The **US-India Commercial Dialogue** will launch an "**Innovation Handshake**" to connect the startup ecosystems of both countries, supporting the [US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology \(iCET\)](#).
- **Critical Minerals Partnership:** India has become the **newest partner of the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)**, focused on developing diverse and sustainable critical energy minerals supply chains globally.
 - **Epsilon Carbon Limited, an Indian company, will invest in a greenfield [electric vehicle battery](#) component factory in the US.**
- **Defense Partnership:** A groundbreaking proposal has been welcomed to co-produce [GE's F414 combat aircraft engines in India](#), allowing for greater transfer of US jet engine technology.
 - India intends to procure **armed [MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs](#)** from General Atomics to enhance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.
 - Agreements have been reached for **service and repair of US Navy ships at Indian shipyards, fostering closer cooperation.**
 - **Master Ship Repair Agreements** with Indian shipyards will expedite contracting processes for mid-voyage and emergent repair.
 - The [India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem \(INDUS-X\)](#) has been inaugurated, fostering **joint innovation on defence technologies** and integrating India's private sector defence industry with the US defence sector.
 - The adoption of a **Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap** will provide policy direction for defence industries.
 - The roadmap aims to enable co-production of advanced defence systems and collaborative research, testing, and prototyping.

Note:

- India and US have four foundational defence agreements:
 - [Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence \(BECA\)](#).
 - **General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**.
 - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**.
 - [Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement \(COMCASA\)](#).
- **Fighting Terror and Drugs:** The US and India stand united in countering [global terrorism](#), condemning terrorism and violent extremism in all forms.
 - Emphasis is placed on **taking action against [UN-listed terrorist groups](#) and urging Pakistan to prevent the use of its territory for launching attacks.**
 - A **counternarcotics framework** will be developed to disrupt the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, including synthetic drugs and precursors.
- **Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific:** The US will join the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**, promoting a **safe, secure, and stable maritime domain and regional coordination.**
 - India will continue to participate as an **observer in the Partners in the Blue Pacific.**
 - A [Indian Ocean Dialogue](#) will be held, bringing together experts and stakeholders to

enhance regional coordination.

- **Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System:** Both countries supported a **comprehensive UN reform agenda**, including expansion of the [UN Security Council's permanent and non-permanent membership](#).
 - The U.S. endorsed [India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council](#) and **India's candidature as a non-permanent member for the 2028-29 term**.
- **Initiatives on Healthcare:** Collaboration between US and Indian scientists will be fostered through grants to develop **AI-enabled digital pathology platforms and AI-based automated radiotherapy treatment for cancer**.
 - Agreements will be signed to further research on diabetes, and a **US-India Cancer Dialogue** will be hosted to accelerate progress against cancer.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Inclusive Development:**
 - Recognizing the potential of **DPI approaches**, both countries aim to provide **global leadership in promoting inclusive development, competitive markets, and protecting individual rights**.
 - Collaboration will be pursued to develop and deploy robust DPIs, with safeguards for privacy, data security, and intellectual property.
 - Exploring the **establishment of an India-US Global Digital Development Partnership** to enable DPI development and deployment in developing countries.
- **Strengthening India-US Trade and Investment Partnership:**
 - Bilateral trade exceeds **USD 191 billion in 2022**, with a focus on greater engagement and technical cooperation in emerging technologies, clean energy, and pharmaceuticals.
 - **Harmonisation of standards and regulations**, lowering barriers to trade and investment, and promoting an innovative digital economy.
 - **Resolution of outstanding WTO disputes and market access issues**, with further engagement through the **India-US Trade Policy Forum**.
 - Exploring **restoration of India's status under the U.S. Generalised System of Preferences program** and recognition as a [Trade Agreements Act-designated country](#).
- **Sustainable Development:** Collaborative efforts between **India and the US will continue to achieve national climate and energy goals**, including co-leading the [Hydrogen Breakthrough Agenda](#).
 - Innovative investment platforms will be **created to attract international private finance for renewable energy**, battery storage, and emerging green technology projects in India.
 - The US Agency for International Development will support Indian Railways' target to become a **"net-zero" carbon emitter by 2030**.
 - Initiatives are in place to **decarbonize the transportation sector and promote biofuels**.
- **People-Centric Efforts:**
 - Initiatives have been taken to **simplify visa renewals for certain petition-based temporary work visas**, benefiting Indian nationals and reducing the need to leave the country for renewal.
 - Plans are underway to **open new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad**, fostering closer diplomatic ties.
 - Student exchanges and scholarships have been enhanced, with a record **number of visas issued to Indian students**, and increased opportunities for US undergraduate students to study or intern in India.
 - The Leaders welcomed the **establishment of the Tamil Studies Chair at the University of Houston** and **reinstating the Vivekananda Chair at the University of Chicago** to further research and teaching of India's history and culture.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q.1 Consider the following statements about G-20: (2023)

1. The G20 group was originally established as a platform for finance ministers and central bank

- governors to discuss international economic and financial issues.
2. Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

Mains:

Q. What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions'. Explain with suitable examples. **(2019)**

Source: HT

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