International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

A Multidimensional and Dynamic Analysis of Indo US Relations

Vikas Dubey

Research Scholar, Department Of Political Science, PMCOE Government Hamidia College, Bhopal

Abstract

This paper tries to analyze Indo US relations through multidimensional and dynamic approach. This paper also tries to analyze various facets like defense sector, economic aspects, immigration issues, ideological aspects, technical cooperation, international issues etc. between both the countries. The importance of this study lies in the fact that both the countries are vital for international politics and relations between both the countries have undergone various transformations right from the cold war era to present times. The study has used descriptive and analytical method for the research. The findings of the paper shows that there are several irritants in the relationship between both the countries but still despite these irritants there are various aspects in which both countries have cooperated very well and can also continue to do it.

Keywords: Indo US relations, Defense Relations, Trade and Economic Differences, Technical Cooperation.

Introduction

The two countries of the world, India and US are the best examples of democracies in the world, although India is in existence from ages but USA came into existence when Christopher Columbus discovered USA in 1492. (Kumar MNS, 2018). India and the USA are the largest and oldest democracies in the world. Both countries share democratic values like tolerance, civil liberties, openness, and public opinion. So, the relationship between both countries in the present global order is of the greatest significance (Yadav, 2025).

Initially, during the Cold War era, the relations between India and the USA had major irritants due to Cold War politics. But after the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, the situation changed drastically. Both countries tried to improve their relations in all aspects and all domains (Yadav, 2025). Some of the aspects where cooperation between both countries strengthened are the defense and strategic aspects, the energy sector, technology cooperation, and the strategy on the Indo-Pacific region. However, in the period of the 21st century, the Indo-US relationship has undergone an immense transformation.

Various events like the Civil Nuclear Deal and the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) showed the strengthening of Indo-US relations. But there are several irritants in the relations like trade disputes, immigration issues, and the stance on Pakistan. This paper provides a rigorous analysis of the relations of both countries, including both irritants and areas of cooperation.

Literature Review

- Bairagi Alok (2023), In Economic Relationship between India and USA – A Comprehensive Analysis

has analyzed Indo US relations through the lens of economic perspective. He highlighted major trade and defense agreements in the paper.

- Yadav Sushma (2025), in "India–USA Relations: An Analytical Study of the Current Situation and Key Challenges," has given a brief history of Indo US relations and also addressed both the areas of convergence and divergence.
- Kadian Sonika and Kumar Manjeet, (2025), in India – US Relationship: Transitioning from a bilateral to a comprehensive worldwide strategic alliance have meticulously analyzed the shifts and changes occurred in Indo US relations and also detailed about the challenges in the relations.
- Kumar Narendra and Bhari Kumar Manoj (2025), in Indo-US Relations in the Modi Era: Strategic Convergence and Emerging Challenges, have delved into various aspects of Indo US relations like defense cooperation, economic relations, etc.

Research Methodology

The study has used qualitative and secondary data sources to analyze various aspects of Indo US relations. Various research papers, books, newspapers articles have been analyzed thoroughly and rigorously.

Defense Relations

The most important aspect of relations between both countries is defense cooperation. During the Cold War era, India was denied technology transfer multiple times. But after the end of the Cold War, the situation changed drastically. The Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) was signed in 2004. India started getting major defense equipment from the USA. The Civil Nuclear Deal of 2008 was a major change in the USA's stance on India.

After that, in 2016, the USA declared India as a Major Defense Partner, which not only strengthened defense cooperation but also made the defense partnership even stronger and unshakable. India was also designated as a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partner. Some foundational agreements related to security were signed between India and the USA. The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement was signed between India and the USA on 29 August 2016. In this agreement, the armies of both countries will get logistics support and services from each other.

Then, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed between India and the USA on 6 September 2018. This agreement was a bilateral defense agreement which allows both India and the USA to use communication which is secure and encrypted. After that, one more agreement related to defense called the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) was signed in 2020, in which both countries can share sensitive information related to defense and security, and no third party will be involved in it. Both countries also conduct joint exercises like Yudh Abhyas, COPE, and Tiger Triumph.

Other Areas Of Cooperation

There are many other aspects of cooperation between India and the USA. One of them is India and the USA's similar approach regarding the Indo-Pacific, as both countries want the Indo-Pacific region to be open, inclusive, and free to access by all the countries situated around this region.

To counter China and its encirclement in this region, a forum was established in 2007 named QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue). This forum consists of 4 countries which are India, the United States

of America, Australia, and Japan. Even though the QUAD was officially called off in 2008, after almost 9 years, it was revived again in 2017.

Another aspect of cooperation between India and the USA is people-to-people ties. People-to-people ties are vital for both countries as they directly impact political and economic shifts between both India and the USA. On a larger scale, approximately 4 million Indians are living in the United States of America, which is very important for collaboration and job creation. More than 2 lakh students are studying in the USA, which makes India the largest source of students in the United States of America.

Areas of Conflict

As it is visible that India and the USA are having deepening cooperation in various aspects but there are some challenges and disputes also which strains the relations between both the countries. The disputes between both the countries are of diversified nature ranging from global to regional aspects. One such area of contention between India and the United States is Trade disputes and trade imbalances. United States Trade Representative (USTR) has called many economic policies of India as not fair. The talks related to trade deal is also going on but has not been signed till now. Economic relations between India and the United States of America reached to the lowest point when India's preferential status under GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) was taken away in 2019.

Other than economic aspect, another aspect which is a bone of contention between both the countries is the stance on Pakistan. On one hand India wants the USA to cut it's all ties with Pakistan but on the other hand the USA gives arms and ammunition supplies to Pakistan. In the same manner United States doesn't like India's stance on Russia. The issue of China factor is also proved to be a point of difference between both the countries. As USA wants India to completely cut off it's all ties with China but however India tries to balance it's relations with both USA and China.

Moreover India and United States of America have divergent opinions on various global issues like climate change, intellectual property at international platforms, reforms in United Nations or other issues related to United Nations etc. There's also various restrictions on technology transfer by United States which makes it harder for India to avail the full facilities of the agreements signed with the USA.

Conclusion

As one can see, the relations between India and the United States of America have been no less than a roller coaster ride. Initially, relations between both countries strained to a large extent because of Cold War era politics and other global issues. However, relations between both countries started improving after the end of the politics of the Cold War. Cooperation and areas of convergence have increased between both countries since the start of the 21st century. On various fronts, there has been an alignment of strategic interests between both countries, which helps foster ties. However, the relations between both countries are experiencing major challenges which need to be tackled in a swift manner. There is a requirement for a readjustment and realignment of interests between both countries in all areas where cooperation is minimal and seems to be difficult.

References

1. Sushma Yadav. (2025), "India–USA Relations: An Analytical Study of the Current Situation and Key Challenges," International Journal For Multidisciplinary Research.
2. Kadian Sonika and Kumar Manjeet. (2025). " India – US Relationship: Transitioning From a Bilateral

to a Comprehensive Worldwide Strategic Alliance", International Journal of Political Science and Governance.
3. Kumar Narendra and Bhari Kumar Manoj. (2025), "Indo-US Relations In The Modi Era: Strategic Convergence and Emerging Challenges," International Educational Scientific Research Journal.
4. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (2024). India-USA Relations. New Delhi.
5. Anand Anamika and Aparajita, (2025), "Strategic Realignment and Transactional Diplomacy: A Critical Analysis of Indo-US Relations During the Trump Administration," International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts.
6. Kumar, M. N. S. (2018). India and United States relations a study of political economic and military strategic dimensions 1991 2004 (Publication No. 307972) [Doctoral dissertation, Tumkur University]. Shodhganga. Handle.net
7. https://www.spsnavalforces.com/story/?id=523
8. https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/what-is-beca-and-what-does-it-mean-for-india-and-us/story-dpXC8wMONMLZ2w4lm3bEfP.html
9. https://indianembassyusa.gov.in/News?id=250078
10. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents?dtl/39066
11. https://2021-2025.state.gov/united-states-india-relations/