

Indian Diplomacy At Work

SANJHA PRAYAAS

SABKA VIKAS:



SHARED EFFORT

PROGRESS FOR ALL

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The President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, visited India from 25-27 January 2015 as the Chief Guest at India's 66th Republic Day celebrations, the first U.S. President to grace this occasion and the first US President to visit India twice in his tenure as US President. It was a historic visit that underlined the deepening of the strategic partnership and a qualitative reinvigoration of ties. It saw a second Summit meeting being held in a record short span of 4 months, and strengthening of the personal bonds between Prime Minister Modi and President Obama.

Prime Minister Modi and President Obama assessed the extensive bilateral strategic and global partnership between their two countries and pledged to continue to enhance cooperation across the spectrum of human endeavour to better their citizens' lives and that of the global community. Noting that the multifaceted partnership between the United States and India is rooted in shared values of democracy and strong economic and people-to-people ties, President Obama and Prime Minister Modi elevated the bilateral relationship through their endorsement of a new **India-U.S. Delhi Declaration of Friendship**, which builds on their 30 September Vision Statement by articulating tangible principles to guide ongoing efforts to advance mutual prosperity, a clean and healthy environment, greater economic cooperation, regional peace, security and stability for the larger benefit of humankind.

President Obama reiterated his support for Prime Minister Modi's vision to transform India, and recognized that India's focus on its development priorities presented substantial opportunities for forging stronger India-U.S. economic ties and greater people-to-people contacts. Reaffirming that India's rise is also in the interest of the United States, regional and global stability, and global economic growth, President Obama reiterated the United States' readiness to partner with India in this transformation. The two leaders pledged to translate their commitment of "*Chalein Saath Saath*" : "*Forward Together We Go*" of September into action through "*Sanjha Prayaas; Sab Ka Vikaas*": "Shared Effort; Progress For All".

Recognizing the important role India & US play in promoting peace, prosperity, stability and security in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region, and noting that India's 'Act East Policy' and the United States' rebalance to Asia provide opportunities for India, the United States, and other Asia-Pacific countries to work closely to strengthen regional ties, the Leaders announced a *Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region* to guide their engagement in the region.

Prime Minister Modi and President Obama jointly appreciated the significant efforts undertaken by both sides in recent months to re-energize the strategic partnership, and affirmed expanding the substantive underpinnings of our diversified bilateral strategic partnership including through expanded strategic consultations, stronger defence, security, and economic cooperation.

They acknowledged and expressed satisfaction at the qualitative reinvigoration of strategic ties and the intensity of substantive interactions since the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in September 2014. They appreciated the focused action and accomplishments by both sides on the decisions taken during the Summit in September and in this regard, they welcomed:

- 30 September 2014 signing of an implementing agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to conduct the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission.
- Convening of the Defence Policy Group to pursue stronger and expanded bilateral defence cooperation.
- India's ongoing facilitation of U.S. DOD's humanitarian missions in India, including the one to recover the remains of fallen U.S. soldiers who served in World War II.

- Operationalisation of the **India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement** of 2008 through understandings reached on Civil Nuclear Liability and Administrative Arrangements.
- US affirmation that India meets **MTCR requirements** and is ready for **NSG membership**.
- A decision to hold regular **Summits with increased periodicity and establishment of hotlines** between PM and US President and NSAs.
- Finalization of the **2015 Framework** for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship, to guide and expand the bilateral defence and strategic partnership over the next ten years.
- Announcement of **four pathfinder defence co-development and co-production projects** under the Defence Technology & Trade Initiative (DTTI).
- Signing of the MoU between the U.S. Department of Treasury and India's Ministry of Finance to enhance cooperation to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- Signing of three MoUs between the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan and the U.S. Trade and Development Agency on 25 January 2015 to develop Vishakhapatnam, Allahabad, and Ajmer as Smart Cities with the participation of U.S. industry, in furtherance of the commitment made by the Leaders in September 2014.
- Announcement of initiatives that will generate more than **\$ 4 billion in trade and investment**, including \$2 billion in the renewable energy sector in India.
- Agreement to hold discussions on a **Totalisation Agreement and a Bilateral Investment Treaty** .
- Collaboration in the **Digital India Programme**, development of **Indian Railways, skill development and aviation partnership**.
- Knowledge Partnership with **IIT Gandhinagar** and launch of **GIAN Initiative** to facilitate short-term teaching and research in India by 1000 visiting U.S. academics.
- Launch of a India-US dialogue on **traditional medicine**.

- Expanded collaboration in basic physics research, and accelerator research and development, Under the umbrella of an implementing agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Department of Atomic Energy of India.
- MoU (signed on 18 November 2014) between Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. and the Export-Import Bank of the United States, which would make available up to \$1 billion in financing to facilitate expanded cooperation and enhance U.S. private sector investment in Indian clean energy projects.
- Launch of the Infrastructure Collaboration Platform in New Delhi on 13 January 2015 to promote enhanced market access and financing to increase U.S. industry participation in the growth and development of sectors that support Indian infrastructure.
- Signing of the MoU between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Urban Development to enable USAID to share expertise, best practices, innovation and technologies in support of India's efforts to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in urban areas.
- India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue, a platform instituted in early January 2015 to hold public-private discussions, for a period of two years, until March 2016, on mutually agreed areas of cooperation.
- Both the Leaders agreed to cooperate on India's efforts to establish a defence industrial base in India, including through initiatives like 'Make in India.'
- Both the Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa) and announced specific actions at home and abroad to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including a CDC-Ministry of Health Ebola and GHSa preparedness training, expansion of the India Epidemic Intelligence Service, and development of a roadmap to achieve the objectives of the GHSa within three years.
- Both the Leaders emphasized the critical importance of expanding clean energy research, development, manufacturing and deployment, which increases energy access and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. US intends to support India's goal (Solar target - 100 gigawatts by 2022) by enhancing cooperation on clean energy and climate change concluding negotiations on a five year MOU MOU on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change to be signed as early as possible at a mutually agreed upon date.

- President Obama reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and both leaders committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the United Nations Charter. They also committed to accelerate their peacekeeping capacity-building efforts in third countries.
