



The United States and India have long nurtured a bond built on democratic principles, shared strategic priorities, and strong cultural connections. On February 13, 2025, U.S. President Donald J. Trump welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington, D.C., for an official working visit. This landmark meeting opened a new chapter in the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, as both leaders introduced an ambitious plan — “U.S.-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century.”

Strengthening Defense Ties

The two nations reaffirmed their dedication to an expansive defense partnership, unveiling a ten-year framework for the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership. This plan focuses on boosting defense trade, joint military exercises, and industrial collaboration. India’s status as a Major Defense Partner and its inclusion under Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) laid the groundwork for modernizing arms transfer processes and enhancing joint defense projects.

To drive defense technology innovation, the leaders launched the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA), concentrating on AI-powered defense platforms, undersea warfare technologies, and autonomous military systems. Notable collaborations like the Anduril-Mahindra maritime initiative and the L3 Harris-Bharat Electronics sonar systems joint venture underscored the growing synergy between the two nations’ defense sectors.

Further strengthening military coordination, both sides committed to expanding tri-service exercises, including “Tiger Triumph,” bolstering intelligence-sharing, and streamlining logistics for joint humanitarian missions and disaster relief efforts in the Indo-Pacific.



Boosting Trade and Investment: Mission 500

In a bold economic move, the leaders announced “Mission 500,” a strategic initiative to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The U.S. and India agreed to finalize a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by 2025, aiming to enhance market access, lower tariffs, and integrate supply chains.

Early steps included India reducing tariffs on U.S. bourbon, motorcycles, and ICT products, while the U.S. welcomed expanded Indian exports of industrial and labor-intensive goods. The leaders also acknowledged the significance of greenfield investments, with Indian firms like Hindalco and JSW expanding manufacturing operations in the U.S., generating employment and reinforcing economic ties.

Energy Security and Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Recognizing the critical link between energy security and economic growth, both nations reinforced their US-India Energy Security Partnership. The U.S. pledged support for India’s full membership in the International Energy Agency (IEA) and agreed to expand trade in hydrocarbons, LNG, and refined petroleum products.

In a historic move, both leaders committed to accelerating the U.S.-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement. India announced key legislative changes to its Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), facilitating the deployment of U.S.-designed nuclear reactors in India. This step aims to boost India’s nuclear capacity through small modular reactors and localized production.

Fostering Technology and Innovation: The TRUST Initiative



To solidify technological collaboration, the “US-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) Initiative” was launched, targeting AI, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum computing, and space exploration. A joint roadmap on AI infrastructure was introduced, focusing on data centers, AI model development, and next-gen processors.

Under the INDUS Innovation platform, industry and academia will work together on semiconductor production, connected vehicles, and smart transport systems. The Strategic Mineral Recovery initiative will secure rare earth supply chains crucial for advanced technologies.

Space cooperation gained momentum with NASA-ISRO projects like the NISAR mission for Earth observation and plans for an Indian astronaut’s mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The partnership also extended to spaceflight safety, planetary exploration, and commercial space enterprises.

Strengthening Regional and Global Cooperation

As Quad partners, the U.S. and India reaffirmed their commitment to an open Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Modi invited President Trump to the upcoming Quad Leaders’ Summit in New Delhi, aiming to boost maritime security and humanitarian airlift capabilities.

Both nations also vowed to enhance regional connectivity through the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the I2U2 group. The Indian Ocean Strategic Venture was launched, focusing on economic and security cooperation in the region. Digital infrastructure projects, such as Meta’s undersea cable investments, will expand digital access across the Indo-Pacific.



Counterterrorism and Security

The leaders reinforced their joint stance against terrorism, pledging to tackle groups like Al-Qa'ida, ISIS, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammad. The U.S. formally approved the extradition of Tahawwur Rana to India, underscoring their shared commitment to justice. Both sides urged Pakistan to take definitive action against terror networks and expedite trials for the 26/11 Mumbai and Pathankot attack perpetrators.

Building People-to-People Connections

Acknowledging the importance of educational and professional exchanges, both leaders agreed to expand academic collaborations. With over 300,000 Indian students contributing significantly to the U.S. economy, joint degree programs and offshore campuses will further promote cross-border knowledge sharing.

To facilitate mobility, both nations streamlined visa processes for students and professionals and ramped up efforts to combat illegal immigration and human trafficking. Enhanced law enforcement cooperation will target organized crime networks, drug cartels, and arms trafficking.

A Forward-Looking Partnership

The U.S.-India partnership is poised at a transformative juncture, rooted in shared values, economic collaboration, and strategic priorities. The 2025 meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi laid a strong foundation for a forward-looking alliance, promoting technological innovation, security cooperation, and global leadership. Their collective vision will guide the course of a prosperous, secure, and democratic 21st-century world order.