



LexGaze Law Review

Volume 1

Issue 1

August, 2020

[LONG ARTICLE]

Americanizing India: A roadmap to establishing successful Indo-USA International Relations until 2019

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Note: The authors have been assisted by very diligent law students namely **Mr. Rohan Bhambri, Ms. Sarabjit Kaur, Ms. Ritika Manchanda, Ms. Pooja Madaan, Ms. Feba Bovas, Ms. Ritam Khanna, Ms. Kriti Mehrotra, Mr. Akshat Maheshwari and Mr Priyam Goyal**. The authors genuinely

Abstract: In this modern era of co-dependence, ushered in by the processes of liberalisation and globalisation, it is inherently impossible for any country to stay quarantined from the globe. As leading premier engines of growth today, India and the United States of America face similar global challenges, including generating employment, protecting their borders and boosting their industries (besides of course, tackling the health concerns raised by the latest Frankenstein's Monster called "COVID - 19"). India must capitalise on bilateral platforms for defence, aviation, trade and technology sharing with greater intent, India's policy of 'Make in India' initiative strengthening the scope for co-production and co-development with American private agencies. Priority military hardware and technologies, and areas for joint production need to be identified and pending sales such as that of Guardian RPVs and proposals such as Micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicles project sought to be expedited. India must build defence deterrence cum manufacturing base in the long run, warding off any plausible threats and interventions from the China, Pakistan or Nepal borders. Both the countries that have long recognised the importance of an understanding between them must, therefore, maintain the comity that naturally arose, paving the way forward for a simultaneous boost to the interests of the two while maintaining each other's uninhibited individuality.

Keywords: Indo-American relations; International Relations; Comity of nations; Immigration; Nuclear Relations between India and the US; Climate Change

thank them all for their sustained wonderful research inputs and proofreading exercises.

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INTRODUCTION

The prominence laid by the current Indian government on good governance and cooperation has pivoted the reinvigoration of the bilateral ties between India and the United States of America ("**USA**"). The summit level joint statements issued as early as June, 2016 after the two summits between the American President and Indian Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, termed both the countries as "*enduring Global Partners of the 21st Century*."¹

In November 2010, the then U.S. President, Barack Obama, while addressing the Parliament during his visit to India, was seen emphatically backing India's bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council ("**UNSC**").² From a Public International Law perspective, this was a remarkable leap in the Indian footprint at the United Nations Organization, trails of which are seen till today.³ Another highlight of USA's pro-India

¹ Mamta Kushwah, *The United States And India: Enduring Global Partners In The 21st Century Indian Government Policy*, <http://www.governmentpolicy.in/the-united-states-and-india-global-partners-2016/>.

² Press Trust of India, *US backs India's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat*, THE INDIAN EXPRESS (Sep. 23 2015), <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/us-backs-indias-bid-for-permanent-uns-council-seat>.

³ As a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement ('NAM') she has sought equitable representation and made obvious her quest for a permanent seat at the UNSC. India has made sustained diplomatic efforts and has also joined the G4 lobby to support the expansion and the reformation of the UNSC in both permanent and non-permanent categories. While India's bid for a permanent seat in the UNSC has received strong support from the United Nations members states (including the United States of America) who have emphasized that the world body must reflect the emergence of the changing world order, some countries (for instance China) have opposed its bid by forming opposition groups called 'Uniting for Consensus' that allege that India is 'stuck in its

initiative was strengthening of economic ties between the two powers, with the big brother announcing \$14.9 Billion aid in trade deals.⁴ Additionally, India was recognised as a major defence partner, a status that no other country has held till date. In other words, the expansion of the 10-year old defence agreement, which was renewed in 2015, only to become a law in 2018⁵, has elevated India's *locus standi* to that of being a "U.S. treaty ally". Presently, the two nations have more than 50 on-going bilateral dialogue mechanisms between them, deliberating common contemporaneous issues.⁶ Recently, an economic flavour has been added to the five pillars of bilateral relations namely strategic cooperation, education and development, economy, trade and agriculture, energy and climate change, science and technology, health and innovation. However, the foremost resolution remains the same- a simultaneous boost to the interests of the two countries while maintaining each other's uninhibited individuality.

own time warp and politics'. {Shriya Maini, *India Versus The International Criminal Court*, NLUD STUDENT LAW JOURNAL, Vol. V, Pp. 79 (2018),
[https://nludelhi.ac.in/download/publication/2018/NLUD%20SLD Vol.5\(2018\).pdf](https://nludelhi.ac.in/download/publication/2018/NLUD%20SLD%20Vol.5(2018).pdf)}

⁴ *India as a U.S. Trading Partner: Far beyond BPO*, KNOWLEDGE@WHARTON, (Jan 12 2011),
<https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/india-as-a-u-s-trading-partner-far-beyond-bpo>.

⁵ *What it means for India to be the 'major defense partner' of US*, LIVEMINT (Dec 09, 2016),
<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/eCHMGqDy5bl2MpFrtgRd4H/India-gets-unique-status-of-major-defence-partner-of-US.html>.

⁶ However, very recently, the two countries have witnessed imposition of retaliatory tariffs recently, with India imposing tariffs on 28 selected products with effect from June 16, 2019 in response to the US withdrawal of preferential access for Indian products starting June 5, 2019. (Refer "*India's retaliatory tariffs on 28 US Products comes into effect*",
<https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/india-imposes-tariffs-on-28-us-goods-as-global-trade-war-heats-up-1560616982719.html>).

The authors *vide* this article conclude that India and the United States of America have long recognised the importance of an understanding between them and have therefore, maintained the comity that naturally arose. The scope of this article however, is restricted to the pre-COVID era of Indian Americanization and the authors have intentionally made a deliberate choice to examine the captioned topic in the pre-pandemic era, intending to assist future research with a comparative post-COVID cross-border lens.

DOES INDIA REALLY NEED THE USA OR VICE-VERSA? ⁷

In this modern era of co-dependence, ushered in by the processes of liberalisation and globalisation, it is inherently impossible for any country to stay quarantined from the globe. Be it trade and commerce, education, research and development, national and international conflicts, peace treaties, or immigration, countries working together have always benefited more than nations functioning at odds. The entire concept of bilateral ties arose from the idea that if two countries aspired to reach the same type of goal in their own way, then both the countries could plausibly benefit far more from working together, than alone. This is why states have always strived to walk together, without necessarily compromising on their sovereignty⁸. Besides, *Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter* dictates that no State can undertake activities that threaten or interfere with the sovereignty of another.⁹

⁷ The term Global High Table is borrowed from the title of the book, *TERSITA C SCHAFFER & HOWARD B SCHAFFER, INDIA AT THE GLOBAL HIGH TABLE: THE QUEST FOR REGIONAL PRIMACY AND STRATEGIC AUTONOMY (India: Harper Collins 2016)*.

⁸ Refer *Draft ILC Articles on "State Responsibility"*.

⁹ Prohibition on the Use of Force: All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial

International support (and that too the Big Brother's) is required and of course, appreciated in cases of regional aggression by neighbouring countries, or when a State faces the threat of war.¹⁰The recent American support in wake of the Pulwama terror attacks in Kashmir unerringly depict how America reinforced India's right to self-defence (bridging the *Nicaragua Gap* etched between *Article 2(4)* and *Article 51*¹¹ of the United Nations Charter) as both sides vowed to work together to ensure that Pakistan ceases to be a safe haven for Jaish-e-Mohammad and other terror groups.¹²India has immensely benefited from its active presence, diplomatic tact of lending olive branches and pursuing avid friendships in the global arena. History stands testimony to the active alliance that was fostered between Russia (former USSR) and India in 1962. Indo-France friendship is yet another example of the contemporaneous manifestation of diplomatic ties with the French backing India's bid for a permanent membership (P-5) at the UNSC¹³, a move that China, continuously opposes till date. Additionally, in a huge diplomatic win for India, the United

integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

¹⁰"America supports India's right to self-defence: US NSA Bolton to Ajit Doval", <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/america-supports-indias-right-to-self-defence-us-nsa-bolton-to-ajitdoval/articleshow/68019449.cms?from=mdr>

¹¹"Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

¹²*Supra*, Note 10.

¹³France backs India membership of bigger UN Security Council, LIVEMINT (May 07 2019), <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/france-backs-india-membership-of-bigger-un-security-council-1557203499854.html>.

Nations has recently designated Masood Azhar as a "*Global Terrorist*" after China lifted its hold and refrained from further exercising its veto power in the said matter. Significantly impacting the Indo-American relations, this move was appreciated globally since the U.S., along with the UK and France, had specifically proposed Masood's designation as a global terrorist, an issue that India had been raising at the international forum for almost a decade.

INDIA – US RELATIONS: CLAIMS OF IMMIGRATION

Humanity has always been on the move. Individuals move in search of labour, economic opportunities, family ties, education and greener career pastures. Many move to escape natural disasters, adverse effects of climate change, persecution, conflict, terrorism and human rights violations. According to the United Nations page on the global issue of migration, today, more people than ever before live in a country other than the one in which they were born. In the year 2017, the number of migrants reached 258 million, compared to the 173 million in 2000.¹⁴

The contemporary debate around the "*US immigration policy*" is often rolled around an axis of selfishness versus generosity. The side in favour of the latter forgets a pertinent point—"the policy offered by Washington is not an act of kindness towards strangers but a strategy for national growth."¹⁵ Prior to President Trump's tenure, the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, also known as the "*green card lottery*", prevailed as the mode of immigration for Indians in America. This was a United States government lottery program for grant of

¹⁴Migration, UNITED NATIONS,

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/migration/index.html>.

¹⁵Matthew Yglesias, *Immigration makes America great*,

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/4/3/14624918/the-case-for-immigration>.

Permanent Residency Cards. Every year, the US government issued almost a million green cards, ¹⁶for instance in 2016, America issued almost 1.2 million green cards, granting the opportunity to all such persons to apply for citizenship in the future and legal permanent residence to the immigrants.¹⁷The idea of a moral obligation to protect human rights (especially that of migrants and asylum seekers) played well in the sphere of Public International Law which vowed to ensure that States (akin USA) deterritorialize the rights regime and secure basic fundamental rights to all irrespective of their formal citizenship of another State. India is also a vital contender for the maximum number of green card holders. More specifically, according to the data released by the US Department of Homeland Security, it was reported that Indians made up to 6 per cent of the total 753,000 who received citizenship during the US financial year of 2017.¹⁸

Post Trump Immigration laws witnessed President Trump's campaign message at the forefront was a landslide change in US immigration laws. In his 1st State of the Union address he announced that he plans to push for a merit-based immigration system and categorically ending the visa lottery programme and limiting family-based migration. This step serves as music to many skilled Indians who have been waiting in endless queues for these green cards. Up until now, out of the 1 million green cards that are granted each year, only about 80,000 are

¹⁶Bhaswar Kumar, *Green Cards Galore? At 46k, Indians 2nd-Largest Group To Get US Citizenship*, BUSINESS STANDARD (Dec 01 2017), https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/green-cards-galore-at-46k-indians-2nd-largest-group-to-get-us-citizenship-117120100358_1.html.

¹⁷Swarajya Staff, *Good News for Indian Techies? Trump Backs Merit-Based Immigration Laws, Praises Contributions Of Legal Immigrants*, SWARAJYAMAG, (Feb. 06 2019, 3:26 PM IST), <https://swarajyamag.com/insta/good-news-for-indian-techies-trump-backs-merit-based-immigration-laws-praises-contributions-of-legal-immigrants>.

¹⁸*Ibid.*

given on the basis of skills and experience and 5,600 green cards are allotted to high skilled applicants from each country. Under the proposed merit-based visa category, an alien would accrue points based on education, work experience, family ties to the United States and other different attributes and alien applicants with the highest overall score are given green cards.¹⁹

It is clearly apparent that President Trump obeys his moral duty to oblige millions of immigrants who have followed the rules and respected the American laws. This system clearly favours Indians as due to the current cap of 7 per cent for the grant of green cards in the present system, an Indian person has to wait as many as 70 years to receive a green card.²⁰ In the proposed system, the Trump administration wants countries of the world to keep their aged, infirm and unskilled at home and facilitate the coming of high-skilled, youthful immigrants to the US. These proposals that have been put forward by the American government, aim towards subsidizing the healthcare and social security costs of its own aged and infirm. The merit based system put forward poses more favours than threats to Indian immigrants but this conjecture is based on how India-US relations pan out in the coming years.

TRADE RELATIONS: INDIA AND THE BIG BROTHER

Although the United States of America is held to be the torch-bearer for the modern day tenets of international law, and in all its essence, the cornerstone for the United Nations Organisation

¹⁹*Details of the Proposed Merit-based Visa System under the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*, <https://www.hooyou.com/reform/merit-base-visa.html>

²⁰Swarajya Staff, *Good News For Indian Techies? Trump Backs Merit-Based Immigration Laws, Praises Contributions Of Legal Immigrants*, SWARAJYA, (Feb. 06, 2019, 03:26 PM IST), <https://swarajyamag.com/insta/good-news-for-indian-techies-trump-backs-merit-based-immigration-laws-praises-contributions-of-legal-immigrants>

(UNO), it cannot be denied that in the wake of the decolonisation movement, all the countries that recognised their dismantled economy and globally underdeveloped standing and labelled themselves as "Third- World" nations, had grouped together, gained majority in the UN General Assembly and attempted to reshape the said tenets of International Law to reinstate fairness to the global axis, especially in the matters of trade.

The establishment of the World Trade Organisation ("WTO") in 1995, along with the prevalence of boosted globalisation, shook the very foundation of the international rules that governed trade and development, and ushered in a pragmatic shift in the international law, as liberalization of trade came to be seen as the key to development of nations, especially the nations that belonged to the strata of the Third World. Due to the positive strides taken by India and the USA towards solidifying relations, we have witnessed a monumental increase in bilateral commerce that has already crossed the Obama-era goal of US \$100 billion.²¹ However, there still remain some bones of contention when it comes to trade. For instance, presently, US exports to India have grown at about 28% in the first six months of 2018-19, which is roughly two-and-a-half times faster than the growth rate of Indian exports to the US, ²² which has led to a trade deficit for India and has thus, created a shift in the trade relations that the two countries share with one another. Nevertheless, the relations haven't been that heavily dampened and there still exists a lot of room left for strategic talks to take

²¹PTI, *India, US to deepen security ties; increase trade to \$500 billion*, THE ECONOMIC TIMES (Jul. 12, 2018, 04:50 PM IST), <https://m.economictimes.com/news/defence/india-us-to-deepen-security-ties-increase-trade-to-500-billion/articleshow/49072842.cms>

²²Pranav Dhal Samanta, *Why on earth is the US batting with China against India?*, The Economic Times (Feb. 11, 2019, 12:03 PM IST), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/view-why-on-earth-is-the-us-batting-with-china-against-india/articleshow/67933387.cms?from=mdr>

place which will move both the nations towards a mid-path for cracking a commercially viable-deal that serves the interests of both powers. For instance, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has seen a double digit growth from both ends of the spectrum. This increase in the flow of FDI into our country is due to the relaxation in our FDI norms. More specifically, the Government of India had last liberalised the FDI norms and allowed it up to 100 per cent in the areas of E-commerce, Electronic Communication, Aviation Industry, etc.²³ Recently, Walmart (a giant US retail outlet company), has acquired Flipkart, which is an Indian E-commerce company. This signifies in turn, a broadening of the scope for Indian entrepreneurs to think and compete on the global scale and make it big all across the globe.²⁴

MILITARY RELATIONS AND NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS: MARCHING AHEAD...

Both the countries share similar interests in the fields of counter-terrorism, national security and illegal immigration. The US has also recognized India as a major strategic partner in south-east Asia and holds a major share in India's arms procurement. Recently, they have also signed the long-pending COMCASA agreement, which opens up the way for the sale of

²³ Atul Pandey, *FDI Norms Liberalised: Retail, Air India Likely To Benefit - Government, Public Sector - India* FDI Norms Liberalised: Retail, Air India Likely To Benefit - Government, Public Sector - India, (Jan. 29, 2018), <http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/668330/FiscalMonetaryPolicy/FDINormsLiberalisedRetailAirIndiaLikelyToBenefit>.

²⁴ Abhishek Baxi, *Walmart's Acquisition Of Flipkart Will Be A Good Deal For E-Commerce In India*, FORBES (2018), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/baxiabhishek/2018/04/19/walmarts-acquisition-of-flipkart-will-be-a-good-deal-for-e-commerce-in-india/#4f6c30e4458f>.

more sensitive US military equipment to India.²⁵ The countries have also conducted various military activities and exercises together to strengthen the ties between them.

India and the US also have a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement that was signed in October 2008.²⁶ During Prime Minister Modi's visit to the U.S. in September 2014, the two sides set up a Contact Group for advancing the full and timely implementation of the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, and to resolve pending issues.²⁷ Culminating a decade of partnership on civil nuclear issues, the two sides have started the preparatory work on site in India for six AP 1000 reactors to be built by Westinghouse. Once completed, the project would be among the largest of its kind.²⁸ The United States has also backed India in getting a permanent membership at Nuclear Supplier group (NSG) which will be very helpful for India in satisfying its energy requirements.²⁹ India and the US also share similar ideas when it comes to the field of space science. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United States' NASA are currently working on

²⁵ Akshay Narang, *India and the Us sign COMCASA Agreement*, RIGHTLOG.IN, (Sep. 07, 2018), <https://rightlog.in/2018/09/india-us-comcasa-01/>.

²⁶ PTI, *India, US agree to build six nuclear power plants in India*, BUSINESSLINE (Mar. 14, 2019), <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/india-us-agree-to-build-six-nuclear-power-plants-in-india/article26528862.ece>.

²⁷ PTI, *Contact group to expedite implementation of India-U.S. civil nuclear energy cooperation*, BUSINESSLINE (Nov. 25, 2017), <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/Contact-group-to-expedite-implementation-of-India-U.S.-civil-nuclear-energy-cooperation/article20878734.ece>.

²⁸ The Newspaper's Correspondent, *US Company to build six N-reactors in India*, DAWN.COM, (Jun. 09, 2016), <https://www.dawn.com/news/1263666>.

²⁹ *US Supports India's Entry to Nuclear Suppliers Group Despite China, Pakistan Opposition*, TOPYAPS (2016), <https://topyaps.com/us-backs-india-for-nsg-membership/>.

various joint projects together, and are parties to a Framework Agreement on Cooperation (2008) in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.³⁰ Under this framework agreement, ISRO and NASA have executed an implementing arrangement for cooperation in numerous missions, which is valid until 2034 and provides scope for joint activities on science and applications, among them, the most recent being the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, which is scheduled to be completed by 2021.³¹ In this mission, NASA is responsible for the development of L-band SAR and ISRO is responsible for the development of S-band SAR. The L & S band SAR will be integrated with ISRO's spacecraft and launched on-board by India's GSLV.³² The cost of this project will also be divided between the two organizations, which is estimated as being Rs. 788 Cr from ISRO's work cost and USD 808 million from NASA's work cost.³³

**CLIMATE CHANGE: SAVE WHATEVER YOU CAN AT LEAST AND
SAVOUR IT!**

³⁰Brian Dunbar, *NASA and India Sign Agreement for Future Cooperation*, NASA, (Feb. 01, 2008),
https://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/feb/HQ_08033_India-agreement.html, and
https://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/feb/HQ_08033_India-agreement.html.

³¹Press Trust of India, *India Sets 2021 Deadline For Launch of Nisar Satellite*, DAILY MAIL ONLINE (Aug. 28, 2015, 00:47 BST),
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-3213457/India-sets-2021-deadline-launch-NISAR-satellite.html>.

³²NASA, *ISRO Partnership*, NASA,
<https://nisar.jpl.nasa.gov/isropartner/>.

³³NASA, *1.5 BILLION The World's Most Expensive Imaging Satellite NISAR Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)* (May 26, 2017),
<http://syntheticapertureradar.com/nasa-isro-sar-project-nisar/>.

Apart from the broad ties that have emerged from the bilateral concurrence on the diverse subjects discussed above, climate change is a comparatively recent phenomenon to have emerged as a topic of grave importance and discussion in the global arena, with every country recognising the impending crisis associated with the rapid escalation of our planet's deterioration. In the past years, both US and India have been vocal about climate change and a need to increase the usage of clean energy and have been walking together on a path towards a sustainable future. Despite having withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, the US has still backed India's initiative of the International Solar Alliance and has promised to give technical support for this ambitious project. This clearly signifies US endearment towards India and its projects and when we talk about issues as sensitive as climate change, we ought to keep in mind that the treaty's objectives do not limit themselves to the current generations, but rather establish themselves to protect the needs of the coming generations. Unfortunately, even though climate change is such a resilient issue that presents evidence of its growing presence time and time again, there are almost no cases that are related to climate change in the international courts. While it is safe to say that the US has had its fair share of such cases in its national courts, even India has worked its way to bring some changes in its domestic laws about how it deals with environmental damage.

The idea of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities stems from the fact that the developing nations and the developed ones are at odds on the matter of choosing the most apt response when approaching the global issue of climate change. The developed nations feel that it is best to address the issue as it stands today, with all the nations sharing equal responsibility to reverse the problem. On the other hand, the developing nations feel that the majority of the damage that has been caused to the climate has been due to the emissions during the developmental and production processes of the developed

countries, since they themselves are still, only going through the entire developmental stage. Therefore, they feel that the same restrictions on their production activities would be unfair as they haven't been able to reach the same economically advanced stage.

India and the US have also cooperated in the matter of making India less dependent on fossil fuels as India's production and subsequent use of energy contributes to about 58 per cent of India's total greenhouse emissions which is estimated to grow even higher due to the escalating need of urbanization. Therefore, the US is aiding India to try and reach its goal of complete non-dependence on non-renewable sources through flagship projects like USAID, which entail programmes like PACE-D (Partnership to Advance Clean Energy – Deployment.) Under this initiative, USAID coordinates with different policymakers, customers, the public and private sectors etc. For example, in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the PACE-D is trying to install rooftop solar panels in which it is getting assisted by BESCOM. Till date, USAID and BESCOM have installed 14.9 MW worth of solar rooftop systems in Karnataka itself. In addition to this, USAID has collaborated with India's Ministry of Power to start an initiative called "Greening the Grid" which aims to increase the ability of India's power systems to manage the hefty integration of power grids at a minimum cost. The main centre of attention of "Greening the Grid" program is to analytically model reforms to collect 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022 and to catalyze exchange between US and Indian grid operators to robust the enabling environment.³⁴ USAID has also joined hands with the Ministry of Power and the bureau of energy efficiency to jointly work on National Smart Grid Mission which looks on the

³⁴ *Partnership for Clean Energy, India*, U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (2017), <https://www.usaid.gov/india/energy-environment-and-global-climate-change>.

implementation and keeping track of Government of India's smart grid pilot. It is also working towards buttressing India's dream of passage to a net-zero energy building future. Besides this, USAID is also helping states like Rajasthan and Haryana in putting in effect the up to date ECBC. USAID is also bolstering up the SECLO Foundation activity termed SCALE which aims to reach the various needs of India's underprivileged by providing them with sustainable energy service solutions. Apart from these activities, USAID along with the US government also engages in social service through wPOWER (the partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in clean energy). This initiative aims at helping women entrepreneurs with business skills and introducing clean energy through their start-ups. From 2012, the USAID has trained 1,020 rural women in India, who through their business have approximately guided one million Indians to adopt clean energy products³⁵. The Trump administration has shown persistent progression in carrying operations with India, specifically on topics relating to expanding defense interoperability and security partnership in the Indo-Pacific. The Indo US relations have always been on an increasing and promising trajectory and it could be asserted, for instance, by the former Indian Prime Minister Atal B. Vajpayee referring to India and the US as "natural allies"³⁶ and the former US president Barack Obama identifying the US-India partnership as "one of the most defining partnerships in the 21st century." Even the current leader, President Trump has called India "a leading global power." India has always enjoyed a good rapport with America in relation to diplomatic ties and we look forward to bolstering it in President Trump's regime.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Malini Parthasarathy, *India, U.S. natural allies: Vajpayee*, *The Hindu*, September 09, 2000, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/04/04/bjp-and-indian-grand-strategy-pub-78686>.

CONCLUSION

Americanizing India, the ties between the two countries have indeed strengthened over the past 70 years. With leaders of both the nations determined to expand and deepen their partnership, presence of various afore-described international treaties has further strengthened the relationship shouldered between the two nations. While providing certain guidelines that dictate the rules and regulations to be followed by each nation, taking steps towards the furthering of their own interests within the ambit of the international arena, India (*Bharat*) today stands "*Americanized*" with a stark Western influence creeping in and around almost every sector, nook and corner. As leading engines of growth in the global economy, both the countries face similar global challenges, such as generating employment and boosting their industries (besides of course, tackling the health concerns raised by the latest Frankenstein Monster called "*COVID - 19*"). Visits pearled all over 2019 by the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to the United States of America have beaded a beautiful necklace, aimed at intensifying the economic cooperation based on joint values and common interests between the two countries in question.

To conclude, certain recommendations proposed by the authors may succour to magnify this partnership. *Firstly*, India, a designated friend of Washington, is eligible to be a recipient of the high grade US military capabilities and technologies. For that, India must capitalise on bilateral platforms for defence, aviation, trade and technology sharing with greater intent. India's policy of '*Make in India*' initiative strengthens the scope for co-production and co-development with American private agencies. *Secondly*, Priority military hardware and technologies, and areas for joint production need to be identified and pending sales such as that of Guardian RPVs and proposals such as Micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicles project sought to be

expedited urgently. This would help India build defence deterrence cum manufacturing base in the long run, warding off any plausible threats from China, Pakistan or Nepal. *Thirdly*, the consultation of Afghanistan of both the countries could be improved by a way of providing greater military assistance by New Delhi for stabilization of Kabul. This could greatly help in deepening ties as it is known by the vocal tendencies of the US policy makers that they prefer Delhi's expanded role in Kabul's security.³⁷ *Lastly*, cooperation of both the countries on the physical and soft infrastructure forefront could be used to link cross border transport corridors, constructing regional energy and digital bonds to foster as well as expedite inter-personal connectivity.

³⁷"Address by Foreign Secretary at the Regional Connectivity Conference: South Asia in the Indo-Pacific Context" (November 01, 2018), <https://www.mea.gov.in/SpeechesStatements.htm?dtl/30556/Address+by+Foreign+Secretary+at+the+Regional+Connectivity+Conference++South+Asia+in+the+IndoPacific+Context>.