

## Evolution of Indo-US Diplomatic Ties: A Historical Analysis

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*The relationship between India and United States has significantly changed since independence of India in 1947, this period marked ups and downs in relationship between both the countries. They had cooperation as well as tensions during that period of time. Initially their relations were stressed during Cold War due to some alliances, as India favored Soviet Union and United States aligned with Pakistan. Key events like Indo-Pak wars and Sino-Indian war affected their bilateral relationship. End of Cold War and mutual concerns regarding China gave rise to a closer partnership. Indian leaders like Nehru, Shastri, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi each navigated challenges like nuclear issues and regional struggles. From 1991 to 2014, economic reforms and strategic agreements, especially during the tenures of Rao, Vajpayee, and Singh deepened the ties especially in trade, technology and defense collaboration. By 2014 the Indo-US relationship had altered into a strong global partnership.*



## 1. Introduction

India and the United States have a long history together, having begun when Christopher Columbus unintentionally discovered America in 1492 while looking for a way to India. But official contacts didn't start until after India gained its freedom. Soldiers and sailors from American colonies and trade missions in the late 18th century were involved in the first exchanges between the United States and India. Following Jay's Treaty of 1794, which allowed Indo-U.S. trade; notable events include the landing of American ships in Indian ports and Benjamin Joy's appointment as the first American Consul in Calcutta in 1792 (Dheeraj, 2009). American academics and missionaries were instrumental in building ties between the two nations during the 19th century. In addition to performing humanitarian work and giving Americans insight into Indian society, missionaries founded the American Mahratta Mission in 1815. However, their reports frequently condemned India for its lack of access to education and extreme poverty. India gained popularity in American culture around the middle of the 1800s, thanks to the works of authors such as Emerson, Thoreau, and Whitman. During their journeys to the United States in the late 19th century, Indian leaders like Swami Vivekananda also left a lasting impression. Vivekananda's speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, for example, was highly praised. Between the two countries, this period signaled the start of a greater mutual appreciation and scholarly interest.

The first political figure from India to visit the United States to promote Indian independence was Lala Lajpat Rai. His insights and experiences were later published in book *The United States of America: A Hindu's Impression*, a book in which he commended democratic qualities in the United States and proposed that American culture would be beneficial to Indian students. American Katherine Mayo published *Mother India*, a critique of Indian social customs and religious superstitions, after visiting India. Rabindranath Tagore, on the other hand, promoted closer relations between India and the West and left a favorable impression of Indian culture during his several trips to the United States. Although Americans have given the Indian independence movement material and emotional assistance since the early 20th century, their contribution to the country's independence struggle is frequently overlooked. After Indian political exiles arrived in the United States, Lala Hardayal spearheaded the establishment of the Hindustan Ghadar Party in California in 1913 (Sohi, 2018), advocating for American backing for India's independence. They also released *Ghadar*, a weekly newspaper. To further the Indian cause, a number of American and Indian organizations were founded, including the India League of America and the India Home Rule League of America. Along with others like Pearl Buck and Albert Einstein, notable Americans who backed India's independence included Congressman Henry H. Mason, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, and William Jennings Bryan. These individuals, along with others, were instrumental in promoting the independence of India. Indian freedom warriors were motivated by President Wilson's war speech to Congress, which promoted world peace and the rights of all peoples. The public in America supported India's independence, but the American government was careful not to enrage Britain.



American backing for Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance, particularly through Satyagraha, led to various American newspapers endorsing India's cause. Important journalists such as Louis Fischer assisted in getting President Roosevelt to hear Gandhi's message. Indo-US ties changed with the start of World War II. In the wake of Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor (Margo, 2023), the United States acknowledged India's strategic significance and pursued its collaboration. As a result, diplomatic ties were formed, and American officials, such as Henry F. Grady and Thomas H. Wilson, took part in a number of projects in India. Under the Lend-Lease initiative, the United States stationed soldiers in India and gave substantial aid. While he was hesitant to get involved directly, President Roosevelt tried to find a solution to India's political problems. In an apparent attempt to handle the Indian problem, he sent Colonel Louis Johnson to India for talks and suggested the formation of a representative Indian government. The United States' interest in and involvement with India's freedom increased significantly after this.

Some important events happened in United States' relations with Asia in 1940s. Huge changes were taking place in many Asian countries in the late 1940s. From places like British India to French Indochina, people were pushing for freedom from their European rulers. China is the largest and famous country in Asia, in China after extensive and intense war in 1949; communist forces won a major victory President Harry S. considered these events in the context of Cold War and decided to stop the spread of Communism in Asia. United States' leaders did not officially identify the People's Republic of China in the late 1940s and early 1950s (Merill, 2007). Instead, the United States' leaders focused on strengthening the U.S. military in Japan and Pacific. These leaders also provided provision to the countries which were against Communist ideas including Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Indonesia etc. These bold movements played a major role in shaping United States' policy towards Asia for the next 25 years.

### **1.1 Statement of Problem**

The Indo- US relations experienced significant fluctuations in the past, marked by different strategic shifts and cooperation. Key problems like conflicting strategic interests during the Cold War mainly with India's support for Soviet Union and United States' assistance for Pakistan have historically affected their bilateral ties. The evolution of this partnership especially Post-Cold War raised queries about how the past leadership ideologies have shaped the current state of Indo-US relations. Understanding these dynamics is vital for addressing ongoing challenges and boosting their strategic cooperation.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

1. How the past leadership ideologies have shaped the current state of Indo-US relations?
2. What role did Cold War and Indo-Pak wars play in shaping strategic interests of India and United States?



## 2. Research Methodology

This article utilizes qualitative data and secondary sources such as research articles, books, journals, newspapers and media reports to gather relevant information. This research includes press releases, policy briefs from Indian Ministry of external Affairs. The aim of this study is to gain insights into the changing relations between India, US in the past. This could contain agreements, Political activities, historical context, and economic factors.

## 3. Literature Review

This literature review aims to analyze the existing information regarding the topic Historical Background of Indo-US Relations. It also aims to mention literature gap in existing articles.

In The book *American Strategic Opportunity with India: The New US-India Partnership*, Nicholas (2007) proclaims that Nicholas was himself initiator and supporter of Strategic dialogue between India and United States. He argued that if we see the future role of United States in the world the rise of India is a positive chance to develop U.S global interests. He believed that in an increasingly globalized world it is essential for Washington to collaborate with the compatible allies and collaboration and relationship must be based on a strategy (Nicholas, 2007). Nicholas was a part of strategic cooperation regime so effort by Nicholas was about marketing U.S- India strategic partnership rather than addressing dimension and nature of the relationship. He neither debated Pakistan's role.

In a paper *India and the US: New Directions in Defense partnership*, Mishra (2015) argued that this partnership between India and U.S is not only driven by requirements of trade but profoundly the defense partnership between both countries is the result of geopolitical location of both countries (Mishra, 2015). Author discussed the relationship between both countries including defense partnership but there is no discussion about the impact of this partnership on Pakistan.

In the article *Indo-US Security Cooperation: Implications for the Indian Ocean*, Mishra (2017) stated that India is growing economically and militarily and India being an emerging power wants to increase its importance and influence in Indian Ocean region. India and U.S. share common interest and goals and India is seen as the powerful nation in the region so it can help long-standing interest of United States. U.S considers Indian Ocean a key area in its competition with China. Indian Ocean becomes a critical point for maintaining balance of power due to the rivalry between China and United States (Mishra, 2017). This study provides the growing maritime cooperation between India and U.S but does not explore the main challenges and difficulties both the countries faced in building this cooperation.

In the book *Foreign policy of India*, Khanna (2018) discussed foreign policy of India in general. This book is a good effort as it gives detail account of Foreign policy of India including its nature, national interest and objectives. This book lacks the systematic approach of evaluating Indian Foreign policy goals and assumptions (Khanna, 2018). The writer highlighted India's



relations with its neighboring countries and super powers but only one chapter is devoted to discuss India's relation with the United States, more detailed analysis could help to understand nature of relationship between both the leaders in a better way.

In the article named *Relations India-US: The China Factor*, Sharma (2021) asserted that it is important to notice that relations between India and China as well as relations between US and China have become worse in recent years due to issues at regional and international level. This poor relationship of United States and India with China gave rise to opportunities for both the countries to develop relations with each other. Due to the challenging relationship of India and United States with China Narendra Modi and Donald Trump worked together to counter China's rising Influence in the region. It is also claimed in this article that New Delhi and Washington both have taken different measures and posed restrictions on imports from China and cut off their Internet connections (Sharma, 2021). In this article relations between US and India is mainly discussed but context of implications of this relationship on Pakistan is not discussed.

In the article *Strategic-Maritime Triangle in the Indian Ocean: An Emerging Indo-US Naval Entente?* Choudhury (2018) revealed that China is becoming influential in Indian Ocean region so, India decided to work closely with US navy but this cooperation is not so easy there are some challenges. These challenges include the difference between ideas of India and US and the other one is that United States has relations with Pakistan. So, for working together both the countries should think about these challenges first (Choudhury, 2018). This article does not provide facts and figures regarding specific events, geopolitical aspects of changing phases in Indian Ocean region.

### 3.1 Cold War Context and U.S response

Since the end of II World War, Indo-US relations have undergone various shifts. There were so many ups and downs in their relationship sometimes very tense and sometimes very cooperative. Professor Stanley Hoffmann stated that "of all the major countries, India is the one whose relations with the United States have been the most baffling" (Panigrahi, 1996). The relationship between India and United States has been marked by mutual frustration since 1947 when India gained Independence. Both Indian and American Scholars mentioned this theme in their writings, it is also apparent in comments of Leaders from both the countries. In 1972, Mrs. Indira Gandhi highlighted the anxious nature of the relationship, and described it as that of unfriendly friends with more misunderstandings than understandings. The overall atmosphere has been one of neglect rather than cooperation and mutual assistance. Notable figures like Henry Kissinger and Daniel Patrick Moynihan have characterized the U.S.-Indian relationship as delicate, fragile, and fractured. The cold war rivalry led the United States to develop closer relations with Pakistan. The geopolitical alignments of the time had a considerable impact on Indo-US ties during the Cold War. The US's relationship with Pakistan and India's close links to the Soviet Union contributed to the friction between Washington and New Delhi.



Even though aid played a significant role in bilateral interactions in the 1950s and 1960s, the two countries frequently found themselves on opposing sides as a result of their allegiance with rival superpowers. Notable exceptions were Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, who both pushed for better ties with India. According to declassified records, Kennedy was particularly interested in India and preferred it to Pakistan (Kux, 2022). The 1962 Sino-Indian War led to a brief strengthening of US-India relations, since the US gave some support to India during this era. However, the 1965 Indo-Pak War reversed these advantages, cooling US interest in India and moving focus back to Pakistan, which was considered as a critical ally in the area. During the 1970s, President Jimmy Carter showed some fresh interest in improving ties with India, but this was eclipsed by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, which shifted US backing toward Pakistan as part of the broader campaign to fight Soviet influence. By the mid-1980s, US strategy tried to isolate India from Soviet influence, reflecting a shift in strategic priorities. The conclusion of the Cold War in the early 1990s marked a key turning point. The demise of the Soviet Union lessened the strategic importance of India's alliance with the Soviets, and deteriorating US-Pakistan relations owing to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear program led to a reevaluation of US-India ties. This time created the basis for a more positive and strategic relationship between the two countries in later years. India's anxieties about the emerging US-Pakistan alliance and a possible return to Cold War dynamics have increased since September 11. The US prioritizes its relationship with India even with the reestablishment of ties with Pakistan. High-level military interactions, India's permission to purchase Israel's Phalcon radar system, and encouraging progress towards the purchase of GE-404 engines and P3C Orion surveillance aircraft serve as evidence of this (Himanshi, 2023). Several travels back and forth highlight how strong the relationship is. The main reason for US engagement in Pakistan is to keep it from collapsing.

### **3.2 Role of Indian National Congress and U.S Support for India's Independence Movement**

Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 and the aim of this congress was to present India's interest in front of British Government (Vij, 2023). At first it supported the greater representation of Indians in civil service and Government, but later it converted into primary political party and started advocating India's Independence from British Rule. India's independence movement became increasingly well-known in the US during World War II. American officials, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began to put pressure on the British administration to take India's demands for self-rule into account. Supporting decolonization, according to Roosevelt's administration, was consistent with the fundamental American ideals of democracy and self-determination. Due to the impact of well-known individuals like Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, American public opinion was also growing more supportive of India's cause.

Many Americans were drawn to Gandhi's nonviolent resistance doctrine because they recognized similarities between India's struggle for freedom and their own history of trying to break free from British domination. During the pre-independence era, Indian leaders, including



Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, established connections with prominent American figures, raising goodwill and support for India's independence movement. Several American intellectuals, activists, and policymakers sympathized with India's struggle for independence, supporting for self-determination and democratic principles. Indian refugees in the United States were instrumental in gaining support for the independence of their country. They published books, planned events, and influenced US lawmakers to support India's independence. The cause of India in the United States benefited from this grassroots action. The official U.S. government position, however, was circumspect because it needed to maintain a strategic alliance with Britain, particularly during and soon following the war. Despite this, the underlying American backing for decolonization helped create an international environment that became more and more favorable to India's independence movement. The U.S. supported an independent India because of shared democratic values and India's strategic importance in the post-war world order; these actions laid the foundation for a partnership that would grow over the next several decades. When India finally gained independence in 1947, the U.S. moved quickly to establish diplomatic relations with the new country, realizing the potential for a strong bilateral relationship. Indian National Congress negotiated with British Government for India's Independence, after the creation of India and in 1947, INC continued to play its role in shaping India's political landscape.

### 3.3 Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience Movements

Indian National Congress launched several mass movements including Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922) Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934) and these movements aimed at demanding self-governance for India and pose direct challenge to British authority, (Viswanathan). The main purposes of these two movements include:

- NCM was about denying collaborating with the British government, while CDM involved refusing to obey British laws.
- The chief goal of NCM was to achieve self-rule, or Swaraj, by demanding dominion status from the British. CDM aimed for complete freedom from foreign rule.
- During NCM, many Muslim workers contributed, but this failed during CDM due to British policies and propaganda by groups like the Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha.
- CDM had a broader geographical reach and more people participated compared to NCM.
- For Indian women, CDM was a significant step towards freedom, as it marked their entrance into the public sphere.
- CDM continued longer, ending in two phases, while NCM was shorter, ending after the Chauri Chaura incident.
- CDM was more peaceful, leading to its extended duration, while NCM was withdrawn due to violence. Neither movement attained its main goals, but they

militarized people politically and led to some reforms by the British government (Morcou, 2021).

### **3.4 Shifts in U.S Foreign Policy towards India**

The ideological split between the Eastern (communist) bloc led by the USSR and the Western (liberal-capitalist) bloc led by the USA influenced Indian foreign policy after the country gained independence in 1947. India and other recently independent nations created the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961 to promote developing country concerns in international forums rather than siding with either bloc. With the USSR's breakup in 1991, the Cold War came to an end, and many countries including India had to reassess their foreign and economic policy. India thereafter made an effort to deepen its political links with China, the USA, and Western Europe. In 1991, it also enacted a new economic (Ranjan, 2022). After the Cold War ended, the United States changed its approach to South Asia and accepted that India was becoming more important economically and strategically. This change made India and the United States relation far better and they become closer. The United States sees India as an important partner in maintaining stability and preventing the growth of rigid governments, especially because China is becoming more influential. They also have common worries about terrorism and supporting international rules. These concerns have bound the relationship between India and the United States. Both the countries enhanced their relations with each other through different agreements and cooperation in counterterrorism and defense.

### **3.5 Indo- U.S Relations under Jawaharlal Nehru (1947-1964)**

Francine Frankel, an expert on contemporary India, talked about U.S.-India relations during Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership from 1947 to 1964. Nehru was India's first prime minister and foreign minister after independence from Britain. She discussed how Nehru's views shaped India's foreign policy, aiming to stay neutral between the U.S. and Soviet blocs to avoid war. Nehru believed the U.S. was trying to become a new imperial power in Asia. Discussions between Nehru and Dean Acheson, Truman's secretary of state, highlighted disagreements, especially on Kashmir and recognizing the new People's Republic of China (PRC). Nehru favored quick recognition of China to foster its independence from the Soviet Union, but the U.S. favored Taiwan. The U.S. perceived India's stance as appeasement (Frankel, 2007)

During Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister of India from 1947 to 1964, relations between India and the United States went through various phases. Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, aimed to maintain India's independence and followed a policy of non-alignment, meaning that India didn't want to take sides in the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. Nehru believed that it was essential for India not to take decisions under the influence of any other country. India and United States tried to work together on development of education and development so, this made possible for both countries to develop good relations in Future. While India received economic assistance from the US through the Marshall Plan and signed cultural

exchange agreements, there were also periods of tension. The US supported Pakistan during the Indo-Pakistani wars, which strained relations. However, Nehru and US leaders like President Eisenhower and President Kennedy worked to improve communication and cooperation between the two nations, setting a foundation for future engagement. Overall, the Indo-US relations during Nehru's era were characterized by a mix of cooperation, occasional tensions, and efforts towards understanding.

### **3.6 Indo- U.S Relations under Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-1966)**

Before Lal Bahadur Shastri became India's Prime Minister, he hadn't met senior British or US government officials. This made him a mysterious figure to many except for some lower-ranking Anglo-American officials. Shastri inherited significant political challenges including rising food prices, concerns over Hindi as India's official language, and strained relations with China and Pakistan. When Shastri took office, many compared his situation to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's passing, noting that both leaders died during periods of national transition and were succeeded by relatively unknown figures. Western observers were uncertain about Shastri's capabilities and intentions. Chester Bowles, who initially knew little about Shastri, was impressed by his logical qualities and inner strength. Both British and US policymakers expected Shastri to maintain Nehru's core policies but expected he might be less motivated towards socialism and more open to Western engagement.

Shastri died suddenly in January 1966, just after making a deal between India and Pakistan in Tashkent (McGarr, 2011). His successor was Indira Gandhi. Some people looked back at Shastri's time as Prime Minister warmly because it was a stable time compared to what followed under Gandhi. Looking back, people realized that British and U.S officials didn't fully understand Shastri's impact on India's relations with other countries. Shastri's death changed how India dealt with other countries, aiming more on what was happening at the time rather than sticking to old ways. He believed in maintaining good relations with other countries while securing India's Sovereignty and Independence. Despite the challenges Shastri tried to strengthen bilateral relation with the United States, he focused on areas such as agriculture and technology.

### **3.7 Indo- US Relations under Indira Gandhi (1966-1977, 1980-1984)**

Relationship of India with United States continued to remain tense and they haven't always gotten along well. These tensions started with Prime Minister Nehru and continued with his daughter, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as she followed her father's Socialist ideas which made situation worse between India and United States. During her three visits to United States especially when she visited United States during 1971 war the relationship between both the countries became worse as United States supported Pakistan in the war. The statement given by India in 1974 that 'India is a nuclear nation' (Chickermane, 2023), made situation tenser. Later, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited President Ronald Reagan and her visit to meet President Ronald Reagan was aimed at improving the stressed relationship between India and the United States. During her speech at the White House, Gandhi admitted the differences between the two nations

but stressed the importance of finding common ground, however small it might be. Both the leaders signed an agreement to address a clash over nuclear power and to enhance cooperation. Four years before this resolution there was tension between India and United States regarding deliveries of low-enriched uranium fuel which was necessary for Tarapur power plant of India and United States stopped the shipments so this resolution was significant as it occurred after four years of the shipments issue (Relations, 2023). Furthermore, after Two years, Vice President George H.W. Bush led a high-level visit to New Delhi, representing a nonstop effort to strengthen bilateral relations and encourage negotiation between India and the United States. This visit encouraged the deeper understanding and served for further collaboration on various fronts with the two nations.

There were many disputes between India and United States during Indira Gandhi tenure. These comprised differences over foreign policy issues such as the Vietnam War, India's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and India's nuclear program. Despite political differences, there were economic ties between India and the U.S. During the 1970s, trade between the two countries increased, but it was not without its challenges, including disagreements over trade policies and tariffs. Gandhi and United States did not have good relations directly. The United States' media, press covered Gandhi's philosophy and his principles which raised awareness and supported India's Independence movement among the people of United States. Although formal diplomatic relations between India and United States established after the death of Gandhi, his legacy of non-violence continue to inspire Indo- U.S relations to this day.

### **3.8 Indo- U.S. Relations under Rajiv Gandhi (1984-1989)**

During Rajiv Gandhi's period as India's Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989, relations between United States and India gone through instability. At the beginning of Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, Indo-U.S. relations were tense due to several issues such as India's nuclear program and also during Cold War it has close ties with the United State. The United States was also concerned about India's stance on regional fights like its involvement in Sri Lanka. Rajiv Gandhi the son of Indira Gandhi and India's Prime Minister visited United States during early 1980's and late 1980's (Chickermane, 2023) ,but could not significantly improve relations.

However, with the progress in Rajiv Gandhi's leadership the efforts were seen to improve relations between India and United States. Both countries accepted the status of trade and economic assistance. Several discussions were held on many areas of mutual interest including scientific cooperation and transfer of technology furthermore, efforts were made to increase investment and mutual trade. Despite these efforts, there were still challenges and differences between the two countries, especially concerning geopolitical issues and strategic positions. The United States remained reserved about India's foreign policies, and disagreements continued on certain issues. Overall, while Indo-U.S. relations under Rajiv Gandhi were improving to some extent, there were also some complications and challenges which showed the signs of how things were changing in the world during that time.

### **3.9 Indo- U.S Relations under Narasimha Rao (1991-1996)**

In the early 1990s, India's economy was not stable due to the war in Persian Gulf. But the real issues were deeper and came from the weakness of socialist economic model. The leaders at that time, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and his finance minister Manmohan Singh, had to decide what to do. There were two solutions, they could either borrow money from other countries to fix the immediate problem or try to change India's economy for the better. They adopt the second option. They choose to make big changes in how India's economy worked. They shifted India's economic strategy away from heavy regulations and decided to make it easy for people to trade with other countries and made things the way easier for business to grow. They reduced tariffs, stopping some subsidies on farming, and selling off some government-owned businesses, privatizing state owned enterprises (Ganguly, 2007). Narasimha Rao visited United States in 1992 and his visit opened the door of economic engagement for both the countries.

After adopting these changes, India's economy got much improved and became the sixth-largest economy in the world. It's Computer and Technology sector attained much progress and a lot of people got employments there. India's trade with United States increased much and both countries got benefit from this mutual trade. Even though things improved but there were still some serious issues in India like there were not enough schools and roads for people in India. But overall, the changes made by Rao and Singh made a big modification.

### **3.10 Indo- U.S Relations under Behari Vajpayee (1998-2004)**

The Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee visited United States four times which added to the economic momentum between both the countries. Behari Vajpayee tested five nuclear bombs which caused hurdles in relations between India and United States but, positive economic thrust balanced the negative strategic independence. The United States has aimed to promote democracy in South Asia but its relationships in the region haven't always been based on democratic values. Pakistan's democratic record remained unreliable, despite its inconsistent democratic record, remained a significant ally, even under military rule. On the other hand, India, received admiration for its democratic practices but still it faced a lot of difficulties in building a strong relationship with the United States. Democracy became a key factor in United States' foreign policy towards South Asia in March 2000 during a visit by American President (Nayan, 2000), based on their democratic performance; President treated India and Pakistan in different ways. Under military rule Pakistan was encouraged for their attempt to work towards stable democracy, while India was praised for its democratic groundwork. When Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee's visited the United States, democracy was again highlighted as vital for the Indo-US relationship. Vajpayee highlighted that democracy and cooperation between India and the United States is significant for a wealthy and stable Asia. He also stressed the shared values of democracy, diversity, and human rights between the two nations. Indian communities in United States also played their role in shaping good relations and cooperation between India and United States and this cooperation was like a bridge that connected them. The people who were working in Information Technology were

making a big difference. The visits of President Clinton to India and the Prime Minister Vajpayee to United States paved the way towards different ways of cooperation for both countries. The United States' Congress recognized India and the US as allies in promoting democracy internationally. In 21<sup>st</sup> century India and United States both were seen as victors of independence, democracy, and the rule of law. The cooperation between India and the United States, including India's support for the Dalai Lama, was seen as an example of their promise to democratic ideologies.

### **3.11 Indo- U.S Relations under Manmohan Singh (2004-2014)**

During his two terms Manmohan Singh visited United States eight times. By 2004 India was visible as a fast growing economy, reaching trillion dollars in 2007 and two trillion dollars in 2014. Manmohan Singh and United States' president George Bush worked together on a significant agreement US- India Civil Nuclear Cooperation and this agreement made their relation even stronger. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the United States for a significant meeting with President Barack Obama to mend the relationship between the two countries. Relations between India and United States were not making progress and have slowed down since the nuclear deal was signed in 2008 and United States' policies kept changing which caused delays in implementing the deal (Bureau, 2013). In spite of this, Singh expressed confidence about the strong ties between India and the US across several areas like trade, counter-terrorism, defense, and civil nuclear energy. During his visit, Singh meant to encourage United States' firms to deliver equipment at reasonable prices and discuss civil nuclear energy assistance. Discussions about working on defense cooperation and joint production of military equipment, with India looking for technology transfer. They also talked about Economic issues, including India's ongoing transformations and worries about the US immigration bill. Singh was anxious about the Taliban as they were coming back strong in Afghanistan after the soldiers of United States left. Manmohan Singh also met with the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh in New York. He also spoke at the UN General Assembly. This trip to United States was the last one of Manmohan Singh before his government's term ended so it was significant. It indicated how important it was to talk about key issues and make the relationship between the two countries stronger.

### **4. Conclusion**

The relation between United States and India has changed over time. Initially Cold War era marked by tension due to the ties of both countries with different super powers, but later the relationship has moved to a more cooperative partnership in the post-Cold War era. The basis of this alliance was laid during India's independence movement and strengthened through partnership in defense, finances, and counterterrorism. From 1947 to 1989, the relationship was marked by ups and downs leaders like Nehru tried to stay out of the influence of super powers which made it hard to cooperate with the United States. Tensions continued under leaders like Shastri and Indira Gandhi especially regarding Pakistan and nuclear matters though they tried to mend relations with America. India's non-alignment policy, lead to cautious engagement despite occasional tensions.



The period from 1991 to 2014 was fundamental, driven by economic reforms and strategic creativities from leaders like Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh, culminating in significant agreements such as the landmark nuclear deal. Generally, Indo-U.S. relations progressed from cautious engagement to a healthy partnership characterized by economic and strategic cooperation.

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