



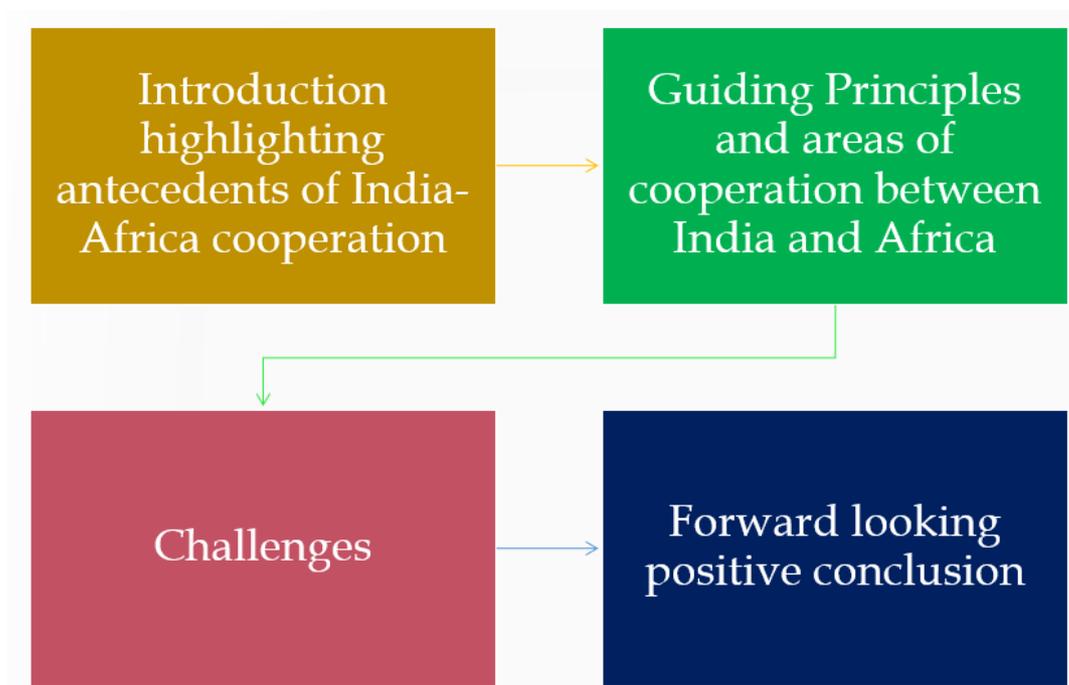
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Political Science & International Relations Crash Course

Lecture - 15

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How do the guiding principles of India-Africa relations seek to increase the harmony and mutual cooperation between India and Africa? m-20 [2020]



India and Africa are not just linked by history, diaspora and culture but also by geography. India has a long history of partnership with Africa, with solidarity and political affinity going back to the early 1920s when both regions were fighting against colonial rule and oppression.

Pt Nehru, held that India's independence is incomplete without Africa's liberation. Former PM, Dr Manmohan Singh held that India-Africa relations is a genuine two-way street.

PM Modi also stated that India-Africa partnership goes beyond strategic considerations, it is a relationship of emotions. In July 2018, PM Modi addressed the Ugandan Parliament during his state visit and outlined a vision for in multilateral forums by espousing the '10 guiding principles for India-Africa engagement'.

Africa First Approach: PM Modi highlighted that India's development partnership will be guided by Africa's priorities with a focus on increasing local capacity and opportunities through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Lines Of Credit (LOC), Pan African e-Network (PAeN) project on tele-education and tele-medicine. etc. he Indian government also organised an e-ITEC training course for healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and management protocols and vaccine diplomacy.

Investment in Africa: The principles set goal to scale up bilateral trade volume to US\$150 billion and double Indian investments in Africa to US\$100 billion in the next few years. C. Raja Mohan highlights the start of "Great Game in Africa" especially by China.

Improving Africa's agriculture: The rich and valuable experience that India has acquired over the last 45 years (after the Green Revolution), and its Triple 'A' (appropriate, adaptable, and affordable) technology can indeed be a game changer in assisting African smallholder famers who depend heavily on income from agriculture. Promoting agribusiness by launching incubation centres has been a critical component of India's agricultural partnership with Africa.

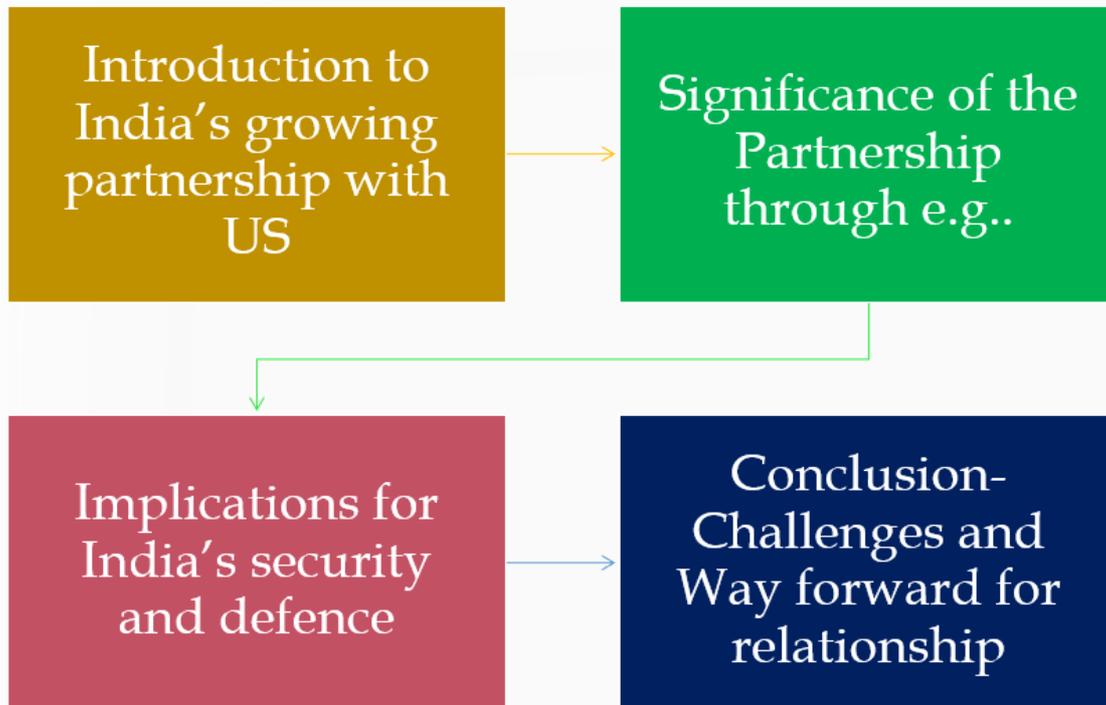
Peacekeeping, Defence and Security Cooperation: Historically, India has participated in nearly all peacekeeping operations in Africa. Today, "over 6,000 Indians currently serve in five peacekeeping operations in Africa wearing blue helmets working to ensure a future of peace for Africans." The deployment of the all-Female Police Unit of the United Nations (UN) in Liberia in February 2016 was a remarkable first.

Terrorism: Both have been victims of and are susceptible to radical terrorism and religious extremism from outfits such as Boko Haram, Al Shabaab, Jaamat al Dawa, and al-Qaeda, among others. Over the years, India has provided training of African military personnel at various Indian institutes.

Just, Representative, Democratic Global Order: India – the world's largest democracy representing one-sixth of humanity, and Africa – with more than a quarter of UN members, cannot be kept out of the decision-making table. Developing countries must be adequately represented and should have a genuine voice in institutions of global governance.

- **Climate change:** Mehta and Sidhu (Brookings) highlight that while India and Africa are cooperating on SDGs including through ISA, there remain considerable differences over pace and extent of commitments.
- **Foreign policy engagement:** Another challenge faced is the lack of capacity as a number of embassies in African countries lack staff.
- **Lack of development strategy:** M. Chakrabarty (ORF) highlights two main flaws in India's development strategy in Africa. Firstly, India is not actively pursuing any specific development goals. Secondly, there is no synchronisation between different development instruments. Even the 10 guiding principles rather than a mission for the next decade, represent broad continuity.
- **Racial issues:** There have been a number of incidents of racial violence against African students in India leading to increased favourability of China as an education destination.
- **Chakrabarty** highlights areas for increased cooperation and harmony-
 - **Clear strategy for African development,**
 - **Harness Indian civil society organisations, NGOs, and Indian diaspora,**
 - **Promote development-friendly private investments and timely completion of projects,**
 - **Improve the experiences of Africans in India.**
- **Harsh V Pant** argues that history will not be enough to continue to entice Africa as Africa has no scarcity of friends. India must shift its approach from Idealism to Pragmatism. India should set out to develop an Action Plan for each of the principles to operationalize them.

Discuss the significance of Indo-US partnership and its implications for India's security and national defence. m-15 [2020].



In the words of Dennis Kux , India and US have moved a long way from 'Estranged Democracies to Engaged Democracies' embodying the most defining partnership of 21st century. Shared democratic values and converging global interests unite Washington and New Delhi in a "Strategic Handshake".



Regular exchange of high-level political visits has provided sustained momentum to bilateral cooperation, while the wide-ranging and ever-expanding dialogue architecture has established a long-term framework for India-U.S. engagement.

Significance of Indo-US Partnership

Sustaining rule of law- Sujit Dutta[vif] argues that The US-India strategic partnership tilts the balance of power and of politico-economic systems decisively towards democracies. This is vital for building the emerging order based on rule of law, peaceful settlement of disputes, multilateralism, and universal principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Constitutions of the US and India.

Strategic and economic Cooperation- PM Modi has said that India-US Strategic Partnership will be of even greater global significance in the coming years, in the context of the challenges posed by Covid-19, global economic recovery and climate change. Anthony Blinken too appreciated the increasing convergence between India and US on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues, which is reflected in the initiatives like India- U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue and India-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership, QUAD etc

China Factor- The Biden administration's March 2021 "Interim National Security guidance" has described the "deepening partnership" with India as being critical to America's "vital national interests." While both countries have always avoided saying that their partnership is to balance China, it is clear that the rise of China was one of the major spurs.

Implications for India's security and National defence

- **Growing legitimacy and status:** Rakesh Sood argues that India and US are engaging as equal partners. U.S. categorised India as "a Major Defence Partner" in 2016. It has helped that India also joined the export control regimes (**Australia Group , Missile Technology Control Regime and Wassenaar Arrangement**) and has practices consistent with the Nuclear Suppliers Group where its membership was blocked by China spuriously linking it to Pakistan. In 2018, India was placed in **Category I of the Strategic Trade Authorisation** , easing exports of sensitive technologies.
- **Increased defense partnerships:** Sood argues that the strategic alignment of US and India has led to larger convergence of interests reflected in the fruition of **third round of 2+2 dialogue, QUAD** and India was invited for the first time to also attend the Five Eyes (a signals intelligence grouping set up in 1941 consisting of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the U.S.) meeting.
- **India's capacity to be net security provider:** India and the US are entering a new phase of the partnership, particularly in the field of defence and security. India and the US have signed all the 'foundational agreements' including:
 - ***General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)-*** The agreement guaranteed that the two sides would protect classified technology that is shared between them and laid down the groundwork for further sale of US weapons to

India.

- **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**- It allows both countries to replenish from each other's designated military facilities. This includes billeting, transportation, petroleum, oil, lubricants, food, water, clothing, spare parts and components, repair and maintenance services, training services, medical services, and other logistical items and services.
- **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)**- It deals with secure military communication. It allowed the US government to give military-grade tech avionics, communication systems without being concerned about its secrecy being compromised.
- **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**- The agreement allows both the countries to share all kinds of geo-spatial information, for example, geomagnetic and gravity data, maps, nautical and aeronautical charts, commercial and other unclassified imagery.
- Such close defence ties with US have strengthened India's capacity to become a net security provider in the region. India can successfully counter aggression by Pakistan and China, also avoiding a 2 front war.
- **Create alternatives for defence cooperation:** While India has tried to walk a tightrope in balancing relationship with both US and Russia as well as increased defense cooperation with Russia, including the S-400 missile system, US provides a great alternative to hedge against the growing Russia-China closeness. India is the 2nd largest destination for export of sophisticated US defence equipment. The Apache helicopters, C-17 Globemasters and P-8 Posiden Aircrafts. US has also given India major Non-NATO like ally status.
- **Strengthening India's defence industrial base:** During the 2020 2+2 dialogue, it was agreed to conduct the inaugural Industrial Security Annexe (ISA) summit. This should be taking place shortly and will give an impetus to cooperation between private industry. The revised provisions incorporated in India's Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP 2020) and liberalised foreign direct investment policies in the defence sector would help this process further.

Challenges

- However, **Happymon Jacob** argues India should not get overjoyed with US's heart-warming phrases like "India is consequential partner for US".
- **Lt. Gen. Ahuja** underlines the need for a broad-based bilateral engagement to include trade, economy, energy, environment, cyber and digital issues, health and agriculture to balance an overburdened pillar of strategic relations.
- **Professor Kanti Bajpai** listed variables that would prove to be impediments to the growth of the Indo-US strategic partnership including US' domestic problems as was seen in its failure with Afghanistan, political disunity in Afghanistan and curtailed economy further impeded by Covid19.

- There are also other points of contention between the two including US statements on human rights and minorities in India, India's ambiguous stand on the Ukraine crisis as well as the perpetual conundrum of Pakistan's role in US foreign policy.
- **Shivshankar Menon** highlights that there is a creative tension in the relations- Perfect convergence in east but awkward relation in the middle east.
- Despite these hurdles, it is in increasing favour of US and India to further work on their strategic relationship to secure national interests of both the countries.

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