

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1679
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

US-INDIA PARTNERSHIP IN TECHNOLOGY AND DEFENCE

#1679. SHRI SUMEER SINGH SOLANKI

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the specific initiatives being pursued to enhance the US-India partnership in technology and defense, particularly in light of the recent discussions with US officials;
- (b) the specific areas of cooperation that can be anticipated to be further strengthened in the coming years;
- (c) whether any measures are being taken to address the existing trade disputes between India and the US; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) Technology has emerged as a significant pillar of India-US bilateral cooperation. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington DC on 13 February 2025, the two sides launched the U.S.-India TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) initiative. TRUST will catalyze government-to-government, academia and private sector collaboration to promote application of critical and emerging technologies in areas like defense, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum, biotechnology, energy and space, while encouraging the use of verified technology vendors and ensuring sensitive technologies are protected. As a central pillar of the TRUST initiative, the two countries have committed to working with the private industry to put forward a U.S.-India Roadmap on Accelerating AI Infrastructure by the end of 2025. India and US have also committed, as part of the TRUST initiative, to build trusted and resilient supply chains, including for semiconductors, critical minerals, advanced materials and pharmaceuticals.

Several initiatives are also being pursued to enhance the US-India defense technology partnership. Significant progress has been achieved under the US-India Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, including the ongoing collaboration to advance priority co-production arrangements for jet engines, munitions, and ground mobility systems. Building on the U.S.-India Roadmap for Defense Industrial Cooperation and recognizing the rising importance of autonomous systems, India and US have also announced a new initiative - the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA) - to scale industry partnerships and production in the Indo-Pacific.

There is also growing defense innovation collaboration between the two governments, businesses, and academic institutions fostered by the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) initiative launched in 2023. Modeled on the successful INDUS-X platform, India and the U.S. have also announced the launch of INDUS Innovation, a new innovation bridge that will advance U.S.-India industry and academic partnerships and foster investments in space, energy, and other emerging technologies to maintain India and U.S.'s leadership in innovation and to meet the needs of the 21st century.

India and the United States will also accelerate collaboration in research and development and promote investment across the entire critical mineral value chain. Both countries announced the launch of the Strategic Mineral Recovery initiative, a new U.S.-India program to recover and process critical minerals (including lithium, cobalt, and rare earths) from heavy industries like aluminum, coal mining and oil and gas.

(c) & (d) All issues pertaining to bilateral trade between India and the U.S. are addressed through established bilateral mechanisms in a constructive manner. The India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum (TPF), established in 2005, serves as a principal platform towards this objective. The Forum is a platform to discuss all concerns related to tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTB), mutual recognition agreements (MRA), streamlining of customs procedure, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, as well as issues related to resilient supply chains, good regulatory practices, trade facilitation, and transparency. In 2023, India and the United States resolved all seven outstanding trade disputes in the World Trade Organization (WTO) following bilateral discussions under the TPF.

During Prime Minister's recent visit to the U.S., both sides resolved to deepen the U.S.-India trade relationship and work towards increasing market access, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepen supply chain integration by announcing plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025. The two sides also set a new goal for bilateral trade – "Mission 500" – aiming to more than double total bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.
