

Trump 2.0: Impact on Global Politics with Major Challenges and Opportunities in India's Foreign Policy

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Introduction

Donald Trump's election at a time of growing and converging interests between India and the United States necessitates re-evaluating several aspects of Indian domestic and foreign policy. This paper identifies four areas in which Trump's election affects Indian interests: The issues that are involved in the bilateral cooperation between both nations include merchandise trade and movement of capital, human traffic in terms of immigration policies, and joint technology developmental projects in an equal geographical balance within the Asia Pacific region, fighting global terrorism activities, and improving governance in the whole world (Author: PatriziaCogo&Cogo, 2024). India must continue engaging with Trump's administration as well as other stakeholders in America including legislators state governments and the private sector across all of these areas. Washington must be made to understand by New Delhi how Indian growth is in American national interest (Jaishankar et al., 2022). It is noteworthy, however, that the theory that America benefits from India's economic rise defined previous administrations' India policies, something which current trends suggest might not endure.

To maintain the normal status of relations with America India must take measures that safeguard its interests against the emergence of a conventional America supplemented by the shifting balance of power across the Asia Pacific and multiple counter-terrorism perspectives besides worsening international governance structures (Jaishankar et al., 2022). Although it may be impossible for the US to be pregnant or duplicate in most cases the U.S. power India must forge strategic partnerships with various countries to achieve the targets while building a different type of diplomatic leadership.

The government has to further economic and social partnerships and technical cooperation between India and Japan Germany France United Kingdom China Russia Israel United Arab Emirates Singapore Canada and Australia and the areas of depth and comparative advantage in each respective field must be met. New Delhi must make the 'Act East' policy more proactive to sustain its strategic edge in other power relations across the Indo-Pacific region. It entails increasing force capacity for firmer Indo-Pacific security partnerships and encouraging regional power and Eastern infrastructure advancement for longer association with the Asian entities (Vajiram& Ravi, 2025). To end Pakistani support for terrorist groups India must convince the United States to create policy pressure targets against Pakistani state protection of terrorist groups. India needs to assess its ability and potential to extend military support to the Afghan government in Kabul operationally. The final step should be focused on progress in apex global governance institutions while dismissing excessive expectations to establish India's role as a leading power.

Impact of trump on Global politics with Challenges and opportunities in India's foreign policy

Trump's presidential term affects global affairs while creating potential benefits and difficulties for India's diplomatic relations. From 2017 until his term ended in 2021 Trump executed a foreign policy centered on placing America first thus altering international relationships (Vajiram& Ravi, 2025).

New Delhi expects the 2024 U.S. election results to present a level of confidence regarding the future direction of U.S.-India diplomatic relations despite expected tensions during a potential Trump second term. India and the United States have developed stronger cooperation through their common perspectives regarding Indo-Pacific policies and mutual concerns about Chinese international behavior from 2000 onwards (Vajiram& Ravi, 2025). The United States' protectionism in trade and technology policies may create opposite directions between the two countries. India wants to continue with the current multi-alignment policy by maintaining USA fellowship and building diplomatic relations across the Western locales and Global South along with developing in-country capacities to manage an increasingly divided world order (Bartlett, 2024).

Global business sentiment indicates India is among the few countries confident about US electoral outcomes more so after the 2024 polls notwithstanding rampant concern among America's partners across the world (Jaishankar et al., 2022). The first term of Donald Trump demonstrated the increase of the US-India cooperation that developed their cooperation during the early 2000s along with their taking sides regional visions and concern over China's emergent power globally and officers' foreign actions. The change in understanding of the Quad occurred at the time of the Trump administration in 2017 in connection with India, triggered by the activities of Beijing in the border conflict during the same year.

Experimental development of the Ukraine conflict will likely occur after Trump's presidential return because he may be willing to lose territory in Ukraine. The sanctions that were placed on Russia made the country delay the delivery of military equipment to India despite the firm statistics that showed that Russia supplied 36 % of Indian armaments (Vajiram& Ravi, 2025). The presence of the United States could assist Washington in resolving its conflict with Moscow while India gets an improved position to bolster its long-standing relationship with Russia. After the year 2022, Russia has observed a vast increase in trade relations which are not limited to military affairs (Vajiram& Ravi, 2025). Modi's visit to Russia this summer, the first since the invasion, highlights India's commitment to a multi-alignment strategy amid U.S.-China competition and the ongoing war in Ukraine. India aims at multiple dialogue and cooperative means but out of them, it selects few easily (Sullivan de Estrada, 2023).

Indian authorities get a strategic gain within Trump's foreign policy approach as it does not attach value to values in the global system. New Delhi makes for a focus of attention for the violation of media rights within its territories in combination with periodic covert cut-off of the internet and ritual public mouthing off and alleged quasi-state extra-judicial execution in faraway lands (Watts, 2019).

Challenges from India's perspective

Trade and Tariffs: Due to Trump's protectionism, trade wars emerged with major countries such as China and expanded to cover India too (Bhattacharya et al., 2015). In particular, the Section 232 tariff restrictions for the steel and aluminium exports and the GSP termination for some products turned into negative areas in bilateral relations (Bhattacharya et al., 2015). Hence, Trump's trade restrictions served his broader protectionist trade agenda which both safeguarded U.S. industries yet triggered trade retaliation from impacted countries.

Unpredictability and Diplomacy: Shifts in Trump's "America First" foreign policy occurred rapidly while for other countries such as India, this made it easier to fail to notice them (Bhattacharya et al., 2015). Hence, for countries like India, which had long maintained a stable relationship with the U.S., this unpredictability could have posed challenges (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). The rapid changes in policy such as the approach to trade, defense, and multilateral agreements may have left India in a difficult position, not knowing whether the U.S. would maintain its support for certain initiatives or shift towards a more isolationist stance.

Defense and Strategic Concerns: U.S and India relations during Trump's presidency strengthened militarily by active communication dialogue and important defense cooperation agreements globally concern emerged regarding U.S. diplomatic unpredictability (Vajiram & Ravi, 2025). Therefore, some partners in the region expressed skepticism about the U.S.'s many-year commitment to the Indo-Pacific because such plans looked uncoordinated.

Afghanistan Policy: It only took Trump's forces' withdrawal policies to turn Afghanistan into an unfavourable ground forcing India (Bhattacharya et al., 2015). India continued to invest in the infrastructure of Afghanistan and hold out political support to the system in place in Afghanistan until the Taliban resurgence posed new security challenges across the country (Bhattacharya et al., 2015). The option to pull out was not a new concept as initially was the policy of President Donald Trump and the decision led to various questions on regional security measures.

Opportunities from India's perspective

Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific: They found that the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" concept that Trump put forward dovetailed well with India's interest in exporting a region-based governance model (Bartlett, 2022). All three nations collectively fortified their QUAD cooperation to resist China's forays in the region and Japan and Australia joined the alliance (Bartlett, 2022). However, in this strategic partnership, India utilized this alliance to develop regional security mechanisms and curb any Chinese hegemonic intentions.

Investment in Innovation and Technology: The Trump administration created an active push to enlarge technology and space and innovation cooperation opportunities between the U.S. and India (Bartlett, 2022). Through his efforts to protect technological dominance and establish market access Trump created potential growth opportunities for the Indian technology industry including cybersecurity infrastructure development along with defense technology establishments and space exploration activities (Bartlett, 2022). The U.S. emerged as India's essential energy partnership because the country gained expanded access to the American oil and natural gas sector.

Geopolitical Space: From a diplomatic and economic standpoint India achieved stronger regional status because of weakened U.S.-China relations during the Trump era (Bartlett, 2022). During the worsening U.S.-China relations, India used the strategic moment to strengthen relationships with the United States Japan, and Australia while solidifying its position as a key Asian power (Bartlett, 2022). Therefore, this demonstrates how nations benefit most when they take advantage of power gaps between major powers struggling to keep relations balanced under the Trump administration.

Conclusion

Finally, during Trump's presidency, India faced important challenges in diplomatic areas, immigration and trade relations as well as regional security concerns yet found new possibilities for strengthening strategies and defense cooperation while advancing economic alliances. Under the Trump administration, India developed foreign policies that maintained U.S. relations but protected its primary regional objectives against China within the larger context of the Indo-Pacific region. Through the Trump administration period, India maintained diplomatic relationships with the U.S. which created both obstacles for enhanced cooperation and expanding opportunities for bilateral engagement.

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