

INDIA-US PARTNERSHIP

The India-US partnership has evolved into one of the most significant and dynamic bilateral relationships in the world today. The ties between India and the United States have been strengthened over the years through mutual respect, shared values, and common interests, particularly in areas such as trade, defense, technology, climate change, and regional security. This growing relationship has been driven by strategic and economic cooperation, making the two countries key partners in addressing global challenges.

India and the US first formalized their diplomatic ties in 1947, following India's independence. However, the relationship during the Cold War period was marked by limited engagement, as India pursued a non-aligned foreign policy and the US aligned itself with Pakistan. The relationship began to shift significantly in the late 1990s. The 1998 nuclear tests conducted by India led to a brief period of tension, but it was also a turning point that set the stage for a deeper engagement. In 2000, the US and India declared their relationship a "strategic partnership," signaling a new era of cooperation.

Economic ties between India and the US have grown exponentially in the past two decades. The US is one of India's largest trading partners, and India is one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. The trade between the two countries spans a wide range of sectors, including technology, energy, pharmaceuticals, and services. In recent years, both countries have worked towards eliminating trade barriers, with initiatives like the Trade Policy Forum and the US-India Commercial Dialogue facilitating discussions on improving trade relations.

In addition, the bilateral investment relationship has also expanded, with significant American investments flowing into India's rapidly growing markets, particularly in the sectors of information technology, manufacturing, and renewable energy. India's growing middle class and expanding consumer market present vast opportunities for American companies.

The defense relationship has also emerged as a cornerstone of India-US ties. The two countries have held regular joint military exercises, collaborated on defense technology, and shared intelligence on counterterrorism efforts. The US has become one of India's key defense suppliers, providing cutting-edge technology and equipment, including aircraft and defense systems. The partnership is also seen as crucial in countering China's growing influence in the region, with both countries working together on regional issues such as maritime security, freedom of navigation, and stability in the South China Sea. Technology and innovation are another area of deep cooperation. The US is home to some of the world's leading tech companies, and India is a major hub for information technology and innovation.

PM Modi's France & America Tour

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Prime minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to France and US to further strengthen and develop bilateral relations and friendship. In this connection Modi first visited France and then after wrapping his Paris tour he embarked on a two day visit to US. PM Modi's sixth visit to France was high on optics as it included wide-ranging engagements during his jam-packed two day trip. At the invitation of the president of the French Republic, H.E, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the prime minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to France on 10-12 February 2025. On 10 and 12 Feb 2025, France and India co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit, gathering the Heads of state and government, leaders of international organizations, small and large enterprises, representatives of academia, NGO's, artists, and members of civil society, in order to build on the important milestones reached during the previous meeting of 2023. Following the AI summit which Macron co-chaired with Modi, the bilateral part of the visit began with the two leaders jointly addressing the India-France CEO's forum. The forum brought together leading business firms from sectors such as aerospace, defense, innovation, energy, infrastructure, agro-processing and consumer goods. Modi at the meeting encourage French companies to explore new opportunities particularly in defense, civil nuclear, insurance, and advanced manufacturing sectors. After the meet, the two leaders travelled together to Marseille in the French presidential aircraft, a rare occurrence. "It is emblematic not only of the deep personal trust between the two leaders but also of the remarkable confidence that they have in each other and characterize the relationship as well," said Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. The prime minister and the president held discussions on board the aircraft. In fact India-France relations touched new heights. The discussions on various issues continued aboard the aircraft and continued upon landing in Marseille, where the two leaders were

joined by their larger delegations. These talks extended into a dinner hosted by president Macron in honor of prime minister Modi. The two leaders exchanged views on recent geopolitical developments in Europe, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific, and discussed issues of global and regional importance. Modi and Macron on Tuesday co-chaired the AI Action Summit in Paris. PM Modi began his itinerary with a visit to Mazargues War Cemetery on Wednesday where Modi and Macron honored the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the 1 and 11 world wars. Modi said that Marseille has special significance for India, as this is the city where Veer Savarkar attempted a courageous escape and the people of Marseille and French activists of those days demanded that he not to be handed to British custody. The two leaders also inaugurated the new Indian Consulate General in Marseille. The two leaders visited the International Theronuclear Experimental Reactor Facility, ITER, in Cadarache, together. The experimental campaign at ITER was vital for advancing fusion science and paving the way for the fusion power plants of the future. India-France focused on nuclear cooperation through joint development of small Modular Reactors -SMR's and Advanced Modular Reactors-AMR's and advancing safe, open and secure Artificial Intelligence collaboration. Modi and Macron also agreed to enhance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, with a joint declaration of intent for triangular development, aimed at providing solutions to support economic growth and development of the countries in the region. Misri said the demand for SMR's and AMR's has been identified as crucial, particularly as AI, as underlined by the International Energy Agency Director General Fatih Birol will require vast amounts of electricity. As far as the trilateral cooperation is concerned, India and France will look at delivering projects in a whole host of areas in third world countries. The bilateral roadmap on AI envisions that the norms reflect democratic values and promote human development. A commitment to safe, secure

, and trustworthy AI systems, advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, fostering international cooperation on AI capacity-building, respecting international law and human rights are at the core of India-France Declaration on AI. An extensive joint statement issued after the meet n that the leaders mentioned that the leaders commended the progress in a collaboration in the construction of Scorpene submarines in India, including indigenization. On the bilateral front, the PM met with the president of Estania, President Alar Karis, and also with the vice-president of the united states, His Excellency JD Vance. Joint declaration was also done and joint statement was issued which encapsulated all important things agreed upon. PM Modi wrapped up his France visit on 12 Feb, 2025 and President Macron attended a departure ceremony at Marseille Provence airport in Magrigane and left for his second leg of visit to USA. PM Modi and president Donald Trump discussed key bilateral issues including trades, tariffs, extradition of 26/11 accused and Russia-Ukraine war, purchase of F-35 fighters and India's border dispute with China. Setting the tone of the 'MEGA partnership', PM Modi highlighted India and US's shared commitment to economic growth and global leadership. President Trump often talks about MAGA in India, we are working towards a Viksit Bharat, which in American context translates into MEGA. And together, the India-USA have a MEGA partnership for prosperity, Modi said. India and the US set a bilateral trade target of dollar 500 billion by 2030 in an effort to ensure joint development, joint production and transfer of technology. The terms of the agreement would be decided soon, said Modi. "The people of America are well aware of president Trump's motto MAGA -Make America Great Again". The people of India too are focusing on heritage and development as they move forward at a fast pace and with a firm resolve towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, Modi said. Making a significant boost to defense cooperation, Trump said that the US would sell F-35 stealth

fighter jets to India, placing the country among an elite group operating the advanced aircraft. "Starting this year, we will be increasing military sales to India by many billions of dollars. We are also paving the way to ultimately provide India with the F-35 stealth fighters," Trump said. PM Modi meets US president Trump at White House. In a significant boost to the energy sector, India is set to buy US energy of almost dollar 25 billion in the near future. The talks between the two leaders focused also on increasing energy purchases, which would pay a key role in balancing the trade deficit between India and US. US offers to mediate on India-China border dispute. The US president has offered to mediate in the India -China border dispute and has called for a de-escalation. PM Modi talked about the issue of illegal immigration and expressed India's readiness to take back those citizens living unlawfully in the US. Extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana to India, making another key take away from the visit. PM Modi's visit to US did not have a significant impact on Donald Trump's recent move to impose 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from India. Rather Trump said that the states would prefer a "reciprocal approach" on tariffs. PM Modi reiterated India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine war and said that the country was in favor of establishing peace. PM Modi and US president Trump shared a warm moment with hugs and handshakes at the White House. Earlier Modi met US NSA Michael Waltz and discussed defense, technology and security. Trump gave freedom to Modi to act as he likes with Bangladesh. This is a big achievement for Modi and India. Finally Modi wrapped his second leg of visit to US and came back home. In short the tour of Modi to France and America remained most fruitful and paved way for friendly relations and bilateral ties between these countries and India.

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How can parents create supportive atmosphere for their children?

■ SURJIT SINGH FLORA

Fostering a pleasant and supportive atmosphere for children begins with open communication. Encourage your children to communicate their emotions without judgment. Provide regular affection and admiration for their efforts, not just their accomplishments. Set clear limits with kindness and apply them evenly. Be a role model by demonstrating empathy and resolving problems amicably. Finally, set aside quality time together to enhance your relationship and foster trust.

So, communication holds significant value, yet it is equally crucial to exercise kindness when the situation calls for it. Make an effort to involve your child in your professional activities whenever feasible. Focus on them and participate in their preferred activities; this will enhance the bond between both of you. Children inherently seek their parents' attention and approval; thus, astute parents leverage this desire to assist their children in multiple ways. Discipline encompasses the processes of instruction and acquisition of knowledge.

In order to facilitate your children's comprehension of essential knowledge and to address behavioural corrections when required, it is imperative to engage in discussions that command their respect and ensure clarity of understanding.

So treat them as individuals. They simply lack the depth of understanding that we possess. Engage with them as mature individuals, allowing them to make their own decisions, and so forth. It is often surprising to discover the level of maturity

they can exhibit.

Refrain from using physical force against them. It is advisable to refrain from that action. If individuals are not sufficiently mature to engage in a discussion regarding their missteps, they will lack comprehension of the reasons behind the punishment they are receiving. If they are mature enough to engage in dialogue, what is the reason for your aggression towards them? It is inappropriate to resort to physical punishment against another adult for their mistakes, thus it follows that one should refrain from using physical discipline on a child.

Engage with them respectfully and give them your attention. Encourage their enthusiasm for any topic and engage in active listening. Pose inquiries, participate actively. They will listen to you as well, for you have been their example.

Engage in conversation, spend time together, prioritize your interactions... However, it is essential to remember to take care of yourself as well. Both parents require time for themselves as adults. I maintain interests and social connections beyond my role as a mother, and participating in those activities rejuvenates me, allowing for more genuine interactions upon my return.

Additionally, consider researching gentle parenting! It is highly beneficial, even if not all methods are utilized.

Railing to dedicate sufficient time to children and overlooking their needs can lead to significant stress for them. Raising one's voice or assigning blame prior to engaging in a conversation heightens their

stress levels and may foster feelings of resentment towards their loved ones. Overlooking both positive and negative traits can result in feelings of depression. Furthermore, restricting their interactions with peers or facing criticism from educators regarding poor academic performance can lead them to a negative emotional state.

Regrettably, certain young individuals may even consider taking their own lives as a result of these overwhelming pressures. This emerged during our discussions with the children, who revealed various issues concerning their parents. We additionally engaged with their families and discovered that a significant number of these children originate from single-parent households. Few children came from large families, yet those who did often exhibited stronger communication skills, particularly with their grandparents.

Parents frequently anticipate flawless conduct from their offspring, thereby amplifying the pressure they experience. Although it is beneficial for children to reduce their screen time, it is essential for parents to manage their own phone usage and dedicate quality time to their children. This holds particular significance during examination periods. In the course of our discussion, the children brought up various concerns pertaining to their parents. Neglecting a child can have lasting impacts on their emotional, social, and cognitive development. Young individuals might experience feelings of being undervalued or neglected, potentially impacting their self-worth. Experiencing neglect can

induce feelings of anxiety and depression, and in certain instances, it may escalate to profound depressive states. Individuals might experience frustration directed towards themselves or towards their loved ones, and this frustration can manifest as intense rage or anger. Young individuals may struggle to form meaningful friendships due to a lack of communication and socialization skills.

Disregarding can pose significant risks. Young individuals might begin to withdraw from social interactions, potentially intensifying their feelings of isolation. At times, individuals might engage in behaviours aimed at garnering attention, regardless of whether the outcomes are unfavourable. Insufficient attention to children can adversely affect their cognitive development and academic performance, leading to a lack of motivation and enthusiasm for learning. When children are deprived of opportunities for communication, it can hinder their language development and cognitive abilities, as they forfeit crucial learning experiences. Insecure attachment styles may develop, potentially impacting future relationships and emotional well-being in adulthood. The experience of emotional neglect can significantly elevate the risk of developing mental health issues in the future.

In summary, the neglect of a child can result in numerous adverse emotional responses, social difficulties, behavioural issues, and challenges in learning. It is crucial for caregivers to focus on children, providing the necessary support and communication essential for their healthy

development. Communication holds significant value, yet the importance of kindness in our interactions cannot be overstated! Make an effort to engage your child in your professional activities to the greatest extent feasible. Focus on their interests and participate in the activities they enjoy; this will enhance the closeness between both of you.

Disciplinary measures are not beneficial. It is essential to recognize that any form of punishment, including physical aggression, humiliation, social isolation, verbal outbursts, or reprimanding, is unacceptable. Such factors can negatively impact your child's well-being and diminish their inner resilience. Effective parenting involves imparting knowledge about the significance of language and logical thinking, fostering the development of responsible and compassionate individuals who understand appropriate conduct. The assistance that families offer to their offspring, regardless of its correctness, can occasionally divert them from the appropriate course. It is essential to cultivate values of tolerance and ideals in children.

Encouraging open communication with them in both home and school environments is essential. Furthermore, it is crucial to periodically evaluate the mental well-being of children. Creating an environment that steers children in the right direction is crucial, and this duty encompasses not just parents and educators, but also society and governmental bodies.

Actually, When both parents decide to be the shining beacons of behaviour, it's like a two-for-one special on role models! If you

two are each other's cheerleaders and see the glass as half full, your little one will probably think the glass is overflowing with fun! If you cheer them on to reach their potential while teaching them to keep going when they stumble, those are valuable lessons that parents can easily show off like a trophy on the mantelpiece!

But let's be honest, this is about as simple and straightforward as herding cats on roller skates!

These days, a child can easily find themselves swept up in the whirlwind of influence from all sorts of characters they encounter on a daily basis-like a tiny social butterfly flitting from one quirky flower to another! When it comes to relatives, they share the same inherited genes, which is like having a built-in manual for understanding each other's thoughts and feelings-because who doesn't want to navigate the family drama with a little genetic help?

Well, buckle up! You've got a solid chunk of time-until they hit the teenage years and start rolling their eyes at you-to sprinkle your wisdom and charm all over them!

When it comes to their home sweet home, it's like choosing between a cozy blanket and a cactus-either way, you're in for an adventure! No matter how many shiny toys and fancy snacks you lay out, your kid will still find a way to look the other way!

Peace, tranquilly, compassion, and loyalty are like the ultimate superhero team-ready to save the day and make everything better!

(The writer is veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton)

Apiculture: Scope and Opportunities in J&K

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Beekeeping or apiculture significantly contributes to agriculture and exports with the Indian exports growing faster than production rates showcasing its profitability. Honey is recognised for its health-enhancing properties including boosting immunity and antibacterial effects. Honeybees are crucial for pollinating approximately 16 per cent of the world's important flowering plants species, enhancing crop yields and quality significantly.

Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is said to be one of the most important and suitable beekeeping places in India.

J&K is suitable for the stationary and migratory beekeeping because of its favourable climatic conditions and diverse natural sources. Beekeeping with Apis mellifera is popular in Jammu & Kashmir. Beekeepers undertake bees' migration for honey production and there is an immense potential to improve honey production. Knowledge of floral resources and appropriate migration schedules in different beekeeping regions can increase the quality and quantity of honey. Researchers at the Central Bee Research and Training Institute, Pune studied the floral resources for A. mellifera and suggest various migration schedules for different phytogeographic regions in J&K and also in other parts of the country. Beekeeping has been practised since ancient times mainly for the precious honey stored by the bees in combs. It was practised in its simplest form in the forest areas. The indigenous oriental honey bee, Apis cerana, was kept in wall niches, clay pots or other receptacles by the beekeepers. With the introduction of scientific beekeeping, now the bees are kept in wooden boxes.

Since 1880 efforts are being made to introduce the European bees in India. Modern scientific beekeeping was introduced in India through import of the Italian race of the European honey bee, A. mellifera ligustica, in Langstroth and British Standard hives. The present day A. mellifera colonies in the country have descended from the successfully introduced colonies during the sixth decennial of the last century. Side by side with the development apiculture using the indigenous bee, A. cerana, apiculture using the European bee gained popularity. Introduction of

A. mellifera bee species has revolutionized beekeeping and honey production industry in J&K state. There are many attributes that make A. mellifera more successful and better suited than the indigenous bees for commercial beekeeping. Its worker bees are larger than those of A. cerana, and have larger foraging range and high forage carrying capacity. But A. mellifera need plentiful floral sources and cannot survive in the regions with scant supply of pollen and nectar.

It has been observed that A. mellifera beekeeping has made rapid progress and production of honey from the last few years. Beekeepers need new vegetation regions to keep the bees' colonies for production and they need information on the availability of pollen and nectar from different plants species. One of the important constraints for progress of A. mellifera beekeeping is the scanty information available on their floral resources. Commercial beekeeping with A. mellifera honey yield can be increased by adopting migration as a regular management practice. Migration is important because (i) the bee adopt well to farms and orchards with large areas under a single crop; (ii) the colonies need a large amount of pollen and nectar for their survival and growth and (iii) productive efficiency can be achieved only when a large number of colonies are maintained in an apiary in good strength. It is difficult to get adequate bee forage throughout the year in one location. Thus, it is necessary for mellifera beekeepers to have detailed information on the availability of different floral sources near their apiaries, seasons of their availability and migration schedules for optimal utilization of the available floral resources.

The migration of bee colonies from forests in hills to farms and orchards in the adjacent plains in order to utilize the local bee flora and improve bee forage availability to bee colonies has been observed by the researchers. It has also been observed that migratory beekeeping in the hilly areas enhances honey production and colony multiplication. Migration is an important beekeeping practice for A. mellifera.

Mustard, gram, eucalyptus, shisham, berseem, toria, maize, citrus, guava, cucurbits etc., are the crops which are preferred by the bee colonies. Migratory beekeeping in J&K helps to max-

imize honey yields. Bees chose certain migratory routes for honey production and colony multiplication. The natural flora of J&K forests is more varied than many other parts of the country. Union Territory of J&K has vast geographical area, varying climate from temperate to tropical, torrid to arctic and from total aridity to a maximum of humidity. Forests cover about 19.95 per cent of the area in J&K. Large quantities of deodar, fir, toon, teak and other trees are grown for timber. Several of these species provide forage to honey bees. India's forest land shrinks each year because people cut more trees than they plant. The government encourages planting mostly of fast growing eucalyptus and pine. Recently karanj is also grown for bio-fuel. Eucalyptus and karanj provide bee forage.

A. mellifera beekeeping is mainly dependent on cultivated and agricultural crops. A little over 70 per cent of cultivated land is under food grains including rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, gram and other pulse crops. Oilseed crops like toria, mustard etc. are useful to honey bees. Among other commonly cultivated plant species useful to honey are mango, lemon, apple, orange, plum, litchi, pear, peach, cherry, jamun, fodder legumes, coriander, fennel, fenugreek, onion and other spices and condiment crops. Road-side plantations that contribute to honey production include eucalyptus, karanj, gulmohr, hedges and fence plants like Duranta, mulberry, Justicia and Jatropa also add to the bee forage value of farms and orchards.

Rubber tree is the single-largest sources of nectar in India. Rubber plantations are found in south-western and north-eastern parts of India, where tropical and humid climate prevails. The nectaries on young leaves of rubber trees secrete nectar profusely in the defoliation stage, before the tree blooms. In 1990-91 this source alone provided over 6200 tons of honey. Next in importance is the litchi tree. Jammu region has large areas under litchi orchards that constitute an excellent source of nectar during March to May. Agricultural crops are seasonal and provide bee forage for limited periods only. Bee colonies cannot be sustained throughout the year in any cultivated area, unless it has an integrated intensive agriculture, agro-forestry and social forestry systems. During the forage scarcity periods

between two crop seasons, bee colonies will have to be moved to another area. Thus, the beekeeping potential for the cultivated vegetation becomes a part of the potential contained in the natural vegetation.

In J&K, Apis mellifera beekeeping is now well established and beekeepers generally undertake migration as a matter of course. There is an ample scope for migration to enhance honey production in the area, by adopting appropriate migration schedules for apiaries in different locations. In J&K there are many success stories of honey beekeepers. They have established various beekeeping units at their farms and earning a good amount of money. They are benefiting the other farmers of the state to increase their crops production as the honey bees help to increase the crops production by the pollination process. In Jammu and Kashmir, colonies from Jammu can be migrated to locations around or near Srinagar for Robinia pseudoacacia during March-April. This species is dependable source of nectar and colonies can produce surplus honey. It has been observed that honey yield increases from 40 to 80 kg/colony/season by this species. In J&K, the colonies are situated in different locations in the plains where mustard and toria are cultivated. During the severe cold in January, the colonies perform well even when they get very short foraging time between 1100 to 1500 h. In the months of February and March colonies get flows from mustard and eucalypts. Honey yield can be increased in September from Citrus spp. In J&K, mustards and eucalypts flower later; i.e., in February-March. Colonies can therefore be taken to areas for flow from mustards, sisham and eucalypts. Colonies can then be migrated to litchi growing areas in March-April for the main flow from litchi. J&K possesses a variety of crops and tree species and thus present good opportunities for migratory beekeeping. Migration should be a common beekeeping practice for beekeepers who kept A. mellifera. It is possible to increase honey production further by optimal utilization of the floral resources available in J&K.

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