

## India-US Geopolitical Relations

### Why in news?

The relationship between the India and US has been put under severe stress by Russia's Ukraine war.

### How about the evolution of bilateral ties over two decades?

- **Bill Clinton Period-** Much of the western world came down heavily on India for the nuclear tests conducted by India in 1998.
- Then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wrote to President Bill Clinton, putting China in the frame.
- The rapprochement and subsequent strengthening of bilateral ties paved way for the historic visit of President Clinton in 2000.
- **Bush Presidency-** The Indo-US nuclear deal of the George W Bush years elevated Indo-US ties to a higher strategic trajectory.
- **Barack Obama's Tenure-** Barack Obama became the only President to make two visits to India.
- He hosted both Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi in the White House.
- **Donald Trump Period-** During Trump's tenure, ties continued to improve and the Quad framework was revived.
- The defence partnership was strengthened with the signing of the foundational agreements.
- **Joe Biden Presidency-** The rhythm has been maintained, especially on the Indo-Pacific strategy, even though the chaotic US exit from Afghanistan left New Delhi vulnerable.

### What is the current geopolitical situation?

- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine** - India's refusal to criticise Moscow's war has made the US deeply uncomfortable.
- When Prime Minister Narendra Modi told President Vladimir Putin in the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\) Summit 2022](#) that "today's era is not of war", the US was pleased with the articulation.
- **Buying oil-** The US was unhappy with India for buying more oil from Russia than earlier.
- But, India argues that it must protect its citizens from the inflationary impact of the war.
- **F-16 Programme-** India blasted the United States for its move to provide Pakistan with the F-16 case for sustainment and related equipment.
- However, the US framed it as a continuation of the old programme that is necessary

for Pakistan to fight terrorism.

- Some analysts view the renewal of the US-Pakistan military engagement as a message to New Delhi for its strategy of “issue-based alignment”.

### **What lies ahead?**

- With the recent “no-limits” ties between Russia and China, issues in the US-India relationship present potential weak spots.
- Since both India and the US see China as the biggest threat and rival, it is time to accommodate and invest in the bilateral relationship.

### **Reference**

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/india-us-ties-depth-nuance-russias-ukraine-war-tension-trust-8183481/>

