

# **EDITORIAL: INDIAN EXPRESS**

# **GS 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATION TOPIC: BILATERAL TIES**

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# INDIA, US AND THE ATOMIC SECOND WIND

#### Importance of Jake Sullivan's Visit to India

- Marked Sullivan's last foreign trip as US National Security Advisor under President Joe Biden.
- Highlighted the **Biden Administration's commitment** to elevating the India-US strategic partnership and ensuring stability in the relationship.

#### **Biden Administration's Focus on Technology Collaboration**

#### **Deepening Advanced Technology Cooperation**

- Transitioned from government-to-government to **techno-industrial collaboration** in key sectors like AI, semiconductors, space, and biotechnology.
- Leveraged the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), launched in 2023, to drive negotiations and partnerships.

#### **Goals of iCET**

- Reduce global dependency on China in strategic industries.
- Build technology alliances with trusted partners.
- Strengthen regional balance of power in the Indo-Pacific to limit Chinese influence.

## Historical Context of India-US Technology Collaboration

#### **Early Years of Cooperation**

- US played a pivotal role in the development of India's **nuclear**, **space**, **and agricultural sectors** in the mid-20th century.
- Collaboration declined in the 1970s due to non-proliferation laws and global norms.

#### **Revival Post 1990s**

- 1998 nuclear tests created new opportunities for engagement.
- India-US civil nuclear initiative (2005-08) resolved major technological disputes.

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# **Recent Progress and Lingering Challenges**

#### **Key Developments**

- Removal of restrictions on civilian space cooperation and steps to delist key Indian atomic centres.
- Growing focus on **nuclear energy** to meet AI-driven clean energy demands.

#### **Persistent Issues**

- India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (2010) hampers nuclear energy collaboration.
- Despite 20 years of nuclear deals, no significant power plants built with suppliers other than Russia.

#### Future Prospects and Challenges

## **Optimistic Outlook**

- Shared goals of reclaiming US technological leadership and deepening India's advanced tech capabilities.
- Ongoing geoeconomic and geopolitical alignment on countering China.

## Need for Sustained Effort

- Transition to Trump's administration may bring policy shifts; requires proactive engagement.
- Sustaining cooperation demands strong political commitment and diplomatic efforts.

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