



Namaste Trump: From Taj to Trade - II

27 February – 23 March 2020

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, technology has proved to be a saviour. It has empowered people to remain connected and organisations to perform their duties. This follow up edition of the U.S. President Donald Trump's February 24-25 visit to India provides a glimpse of the latest developments in the Indo-U.S. corridor. Hope the situation gets better soon. Until then, let us follow our governments' advisories, stay home and keep our mindsets positive.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Trump and Modi Herald The Downfall of The Indo-U.S. Partnership <i>By Minaam Shah</i> The National Interest March 23, 2020</p>	<p>By compromising the edifice which has legitimized the logic of Indo-U.S. relationship for years, Trump has instead inserted crude strategic reasoning as the basis of the relationship between the two countries for the future. On Afghanistan too, Trump decided to go his own way, showing no concern for Indian sensitivities. When asked about Indian concerns, Trump responded by saying India was very much on board with the peace talks with the Taliban.</p>
<p>The ambit and the limits of 'diaspora diplomacy' <i>By Suhasini Haidar</i> The Hindu March 14, 2020</p>	<p>Joint rallies by U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad last month and at Houston last September were unique for their concept and for their crowd sizes, but also for the promise they held out to the leaders themselves: of audiences that would blend support for Mr. Trump with that for Mr. Modi politically. As a result, speaking beyond bilateral relations, both leaders paid tribute to the three million people of Indian origin who are American citizens, who will vote in elections this year.</p>
<p>Trump in India: A Triumph of the Personal over the Political <i>By Sayani Malakar</i> Geopolitical Monitor March 12, 2020</p>	<p>Not only did he avoid commenting on the controversial policies of the Indian government, but he also heaped immense praise on India's religious harmony, which ironically contrasted the reality as the capital city of Delhi was embroiled in communal conflict at the time of his visit. This is even despairingly ironic due to the fact that, while the U.S. has been keen on projecting its democratic credentials and maintaining its leadership status as the champion of liberal values and human rights in the global stage, Trump cautiously turned a blind eye to the communal conflict taking place in Delhi during his visit.</p>

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<p>The India-U.S. Relationship Is Bigger Than Its Showboating Leaders <i>BY Atman Trivedi</i> Foreign Policy March 11, 2020</p>	<p>Yet the U.S.-India relationship is perceptibly shrinking in ambition and dynamism. After over a year of negotiations, a limited trade agreement still eluded Trump and Modi. A so-called mini-deal would not have covered large swaths of business activity (such as e-commerce and information technology), but it offered the prospect of building trust between economies in rather different places.</p>
<p>The China factor behind Trump's India visit <i>By Brahma Chellaney</i> The Japan Times March 06, 2020</p>	<p>Trump's standalone trip underscored how the expanding U.S.-India strategic partnership has become an important diplomatic asset for both countries. Trump's visit, like that of his predecessor Barack Obama five years ago, may not have yielded any major agreement, but it has set the direction toward greater Indo-American collaboration in the face of China's muscular rise and a strengthening Sino-Russian strategic nexus.</p>
<p>Despite the Trump-Modi 'Love,' Trade Is Still the Weak Link in U.S.-India Relations <i>By Anubhav Gupta</i> World Politics Review March 05, 2020</p>	<p>Amid all the ceremony and talk of bilateral "love," a much-anticipated trade agreement was glaringly missing. Both governments had raised expectations during the lead-up to the trip that a deal was within reach, and the State Department's top diplomat for South Asia admitted that not reaching even a modest, phase-one trade agreement "would be a big setback." Now, it is unlikely that a deal will come together before the U.S. presidential election in November, kicking any resolution of trade tensions to 2021.</p>
<p>Trump's path-breaking visit to India should be leveraged <i>By Raja Murthy</i> The Statesman March 05, 2020</p>	<p>At multiple levels, minor and major, President Donald Trump's visit to India breached new and significant ground. No fruits yet such as a trade deal, but a crucial tree of special mutual goodwill has been planted that can yield benefits across generations. The challenge is ensuring India's foreign policy thinktank does not muffle it to push Indo-US equations back to square one.</p>
<p>Takeaways from Trump's visit to India <i>By S K Chatterji</i> Asia Times March 04, 2020</p>	<p>The Indian side was pitching for lowering of tariffs on steel and aluminum products and greater access in such sectors as automobiles, automobile components, agriculture and a host of others. The US was similarly looking at greater access and lower tariffs on a host of items, including dairy products, medical devices and ICT (information and communications technology) products. Trump remains concerned about the US trade deficit, which India is trying to address through purchases of energy resources, weapons systems and military platforms.</p>
<p>As dust settles on Trump's India trip, here's a relook at the road ahead on trade <i>By Amit Kapoor</i> The Economic Times March 01, 2020</p>	<p>Both New Delhi and Washington recognise the growing convergence in mutual interests in cooperation from an economic and geo-political perspective. Fortunately, the leaders of both nations share a sense of respect and camaraderie despite their differences over their commitments to their citizens. It is time that the nations leveraged this relationship to extend the same approach towards trade.</p>

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<p>Good Indo-US ties necessary for international balance <i>By Ashwani Mahajan</i> The New Indian Express March 01, 2020</p>	<p>Washington has to understand that good relations with India and America are absolutely necessary to create international balance. That is why it is becoming clear in the Indo-US joint press release that the two countries will work together in the field of defence. Increasing strategic co-operation between India and the United States will improve the balance of power in the continent; and China, which is constantly increasing its strategic presence in the region, will also get appropriate response.</p>
<p>Asian leaders underestimate danger of Trump's re-election <i>By James Crabtree</i> Nikkei Asian Review February 27, 2020</p>	<p>Donald Trump's recent trip to New Delhi helped bind the U.S. and India more closely, as both grapple with how to manage their ties with China. But it marked a more significant milestone too, namely Trump's first Asian visit since his odds of re-election shifted from probable to overwhelmingly likely.</p>