STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

About India–U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership (CGSP) and iCET

International Relations

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The India–U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership (CGSP) is the highest level of diplomatic relationship between the two countries. It was formally elevated during PM Narendra Modi’s visit to the U.S. in 2020, and has since become the central framework guiding cooperation across multiple sectors.

What the Partnership Means?

The CGSP signifies that India and the United States are not just strategic partners, but global partners working together on major international, economic, defence, and security issues. It covers cooperation in:

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1. Defence and Security

- Joint military exercises
- Interoperability
- Defence technology collaboration
- Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific
- Counterterrorism operations
- Space and cyber defence cooperation

2. Trade and Economics

- Expanding bilateral trade
- Reducing tariff barriers
- Strengthening supply chains
- Encouraging investments and clean energy cooperation

3. Technology and Innovation

- Semiconductor ecosystem
- AI and quantum technology
- 5G/6G and secure telecom
- Space technology and NASA–ISRO missions

4. People-to-People Ties

- Education and research partnerships
- Mobility agreements
- Indian diaspora involvement
- Tourism and cultural exchange

5. Indo-Pacific Security Architecture

- Commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific
- Quad cooperation (India–U.S.–Japan–Australia)
- Ensuring stability amid China’s growing assertiveness

Why It Matters?

The CGSP reflects:

- India’s rise as a major global power
- The U.S. need for strong partners in Asia
- Shared democratic values
- Mutual geopolitical interests
- It provides a framework for long-term, high-level cooperation in defence, technology, energy, and global governance.

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Key Components Under the Partnership

- iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology)
- COMPACT Framework
- Major Defense Partnership (renewal for 10 years)
- Climate and Clean Energy Agenda
- Counterterrorism Dialogue

ABOUT iCET

iCET stands for Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology. It is a major India–U.S. strategic framework launched in January 2023 to deepen cooperation in advanced technologies, defence innovations, and high-tech industries.

iCET is led by India’s National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and the U.S. National Security Council (NSC).

Main Goals of iCET

iCET aims to position India and the U.S. as trusted partners in the technologies that will shape the future. Key focus areas include:

- Semiconductors & Chips
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning
- Quantum Computing
- 5G/6G telecom systems
- Space technology & commercial space cooperation
- Cybersecurity and secure digital infrastructure
- Defence innovation & joint production

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Defence and Security Component

Under iCET, both countries cooperate on:

- Co-development of high-tech defence systems
- Joint production of jet engines, drones, and munitions
- Space-based defence collaboration
- Improving military interoperability
- This supports the broader U.S.–India Major Defense Partnership.

Economic & Industrial Goals

iCET aims to:

- Build resilient supply chains (especially semiconductors)
- Encourage U.S. high-tech companies to invest in India
- Promote joint start-ups and innovation partnerships
- Support talent exchange in STEM fields

Why iCET Matters

- Strengthens India–U.S. high-tech leadership amid global competition (especially China)
- Helps India reduce dependence on foreign tech ecosystems

- Accelerates India's growth in AI, space, telecom, and semiconductor manufacturing
- Reinforces strategic alignment in the Indo-Pacific

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