

Obama's Visit: Indo-US partnership in biotech, antibiotic resistance & biofuels

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The Indo-American cooperation in science and technology has received a great boost due to the visit of President of United States, Mr Barrack Obama who alongwith Indian Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi have jointly appreciated the significant efforts undertaken by both sides in recent months to re-energize the strategic partnership.

Both the leaders also committed to multi-sectoral actions countering the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and cooperation in training of health workers in preparedness for infectious disease threats. The leaders agreed to focus science and technology partnerships on countering antibiotic resistant bacteria and promoting the availability, efficacy and quality of therapeutics. A renewed commitment to Partnership to Advance Clean Energy Research (PACE-R), including extending funding for three existing research tracks of solar energy, building energy efficiency, and biofuels for an additional five years and launching a new track on smart grid and grid storage.

The completion of an MoU between the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research, All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences, and the U.S National Institute of Health and National Cancer Institute. The signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent between USAID and the Ministry of Human Resource Development on January 23 for technical support to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), starting with IIT Gandhinagar, to strengthen research and entrepreneurship capabilities.

Joint statement by the two heads of the nations, said, "We will continue to deepen our collaboration in science, technology, innovation, agriculture, health, education and skills. These are central to the future of our two countries; and also give us an opportunity to help others around the world."

Earlier, the convening of the High Technology Cooperation Group on November 20-21, 2014 to shape a cooperative agenda

on high technology goods, including export control-related trade in homeland security technologies, high technology manufacturing equipment including machine tools, defence trade, and fostering collaboration in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and health-related information technology.