

## Modi, Nikki Haley discuss deepening of India-US ties

**NEWDELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, on Wednesday discussed deepening India-US cooperation during her first visit to India after taking over. The conversation also focused on the impact of the US sanctions on Iran, where Delhi and Washington's positions diverge.

An official Indian statement said: "Haley noted the deepening relations between India and the US particularly in strategic and defence sectors. Both the dignitaries discussed ways to enhance India-US cooperation, including on counter-terrorism, and in multilateral fora." The two leaders also discussed Iran. Haley, according to a Reuters report, emphasised India cut Iranian oil use. "Sanctions are coming (on Iran) and we're going forward on that, and with India and the US building strong relationships we hoped that they would lessen their dependence on Iran," Haley was quoted as saying.

Modi also appreciated Trump's South Asia and Indo-Pacific strategies and commended his initiative for denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula.

"In this day and time we see more and more reasons for India and the US to come together," said Haley, who is an American of Indian origin.

**HTC**