



Defense News Conclave

Stories of U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership

Dialogues on “Deliverables to Deliveries”

Hotel Sarovar Premiere, Jaipur

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 | 0945hrs to 1520hrs (IST)

Background and Context

Under the [*Defense News Conclave Project*](#), supported by the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata and the U.S. State Department, CUTS International is organizing five workshops covering consular districts of the U.S. Consulate Generals. They aim to create a group of informed stakeholders in India for strengthening U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership by generating necessary awareness of diverse media professionals and other relevant stakeholders.

Each workshop will be over two sessions focusing on good practices of U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership in general and its relevance for U.S.-India Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific region in particular. Among others, they will look at the milestones set and achieved, and policies and gaps to be filled-in to secure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

Objectives

- Act as a capacity-building initiative for media professionals and other relevant stakeholders
- Facilitate meaningful dialogues between experts and participants for better understanding of relevance and nuances of U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership for the ‘good’ of the world in general and the Indo-Pacific region in particular
- Develop a better understanding of good practices in joint development of advanced defense-related technologies for promoting a positive narrative on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership, especially in the context of evolving geopolitical, including geo-strategic and geo-economic, developments in the Indo-Pacific region

Outcomes

- A sustained platform for free-flowing interaction on issues related to U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership
- More and better information about good practices on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership - joint production possibilities of equipment and materials, opportunities and challenges for various sectors involved, and overall enhanced capacity to report and write on related issues

Agenda

Over the years, India's designation as a Major Defense Partner of the U.S., signing of foundational defense-related agreements and large number of joint military exercises in the Indo-Pacific region have taken the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership to new heights. The shift in geopolitical attention to the Indo-Pacific region and associated geo-strategic and geo-economic developments such as the coming together of Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. into a Quad, the initiation of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, has made this Partnership even more robust. This is underlined in the Joint Statement from the U.S. and India following the Official State Visit of the Indian Prime Minister to the U.S. in June, 2023.

Future status of this Partnership will be a deciding factor in shaping security dynamics in the world in general and the Indo-Pacific region in particular. Therefore, it is time to highlight that, among other deliverables, U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership is to secure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. This will ensure a better exposition of 'deliverables to deliveries' on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership.

09:45-10:20 Registration and Networking with Tea/Coffee

10:20-10:45 Opening Remarks

- **Pradeep S Mehta**, *Secretary General, CUTS International*
- **Col. Aaron J. Cooper**, *Air Attaché, Embassy of the United States of America in India*

10:45-12:30 Scope of Bilateral Frameworks and Growing areas of Convergence in U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership

- Evolution of DTTI, Foundational Agreements and similar initiatives between U.S. and India
- Significance of U.S.-India Defense Partnership in Co-production and Co-manufacture, Road to Defense Exports.
- Success Stories of Yudh Abhyas Military Exercises, High-altitude Exercises and Anchoring U.S.-India Security Partnership
- Anti-terrorism and Warfare Drills, Tactical and Technical Skills in a UN Peace Enforcement Scenario involving Mechanised Forces

Chair & Moderator: Lt. Gen. Subrata Saha (Retd.), *former Member of the National Security Advisory Board and Deputy Chief of Army Staff*

Panelists

- **Lt. Gen Anil Kumar Ahuja (Retd.)**, *former Indian Co-Chair of the U.S.- India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Inter Agency Task Force and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS WDC Center*
- **Col. Manvendra Singh (Retd.)**, *Editor-in-Chief, Defence and Security Alert*
- **Manjari Singh**, *Assistant Professor, Amity Institute of International Studies, Amity University.*
- **Nayanima Basu**, *Editor, Foreign Affairs, Strategy and National Security, ABP Live (ABP Network)*

12:30-13:30 Networking with Lunch

13:30-15:00 Significance of U.S.-India Strategic Partnership

- Strategic Defense Partnership in the Indo-Pacific Region. Naval Bases in the Indian Ocean Region
- Enhancing ISR Capabilities of India's Armed Forces, and establishing a Comprehensive Global MRO Facility in India
- The Role of Public-Private Partnership in Joint Defense-Industrial Cooperation, including Technology & Knowledge Transfer for Advanced Weapons Production
- Besides Counter-insurgency Operations, Exchange of Experiences in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief to be part of Joint Exercises.

Chair & Moderator: Ritu Sharma, Senior Editor, The EurAsian Times

Panelists

- **Lt. Gen. Arun Kumar Sahni, (Retd.),** *former General Officer Commanding in South Western Command Chief*
- **Maj. Gen. Sudhakar Jee (Retd.),** *former Colonel of the Mahar Regiment, Defense and Strategic Affairs Analyst*
- **Cmde Mukesh Bhargava (Retd.),** *former Member of Board and Vice President, L&T Defence and Consultant/Advisor, Defence & Aerospace*
- **Prabudh Sharma,** *President, Raytheon India and South Asia*
- **Dipanjan R. Chowdhury,** *Diplomatic Editor, The Economic Times, India*

15:00-15:20

Closing Remarks

- **Representative, CUTS International**