



Defense News Conclave

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

Dialogues on “Deliverables to Deliveries”

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 | 1000 – 1545 hours (IST)

[Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Mumbai International Airport](#)

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 United States 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.

10:00-10:20 Registration and Networking with Tea/Coffee

10:20-10:35 Welcome Remarks

- Greg Pardo, *Spokesperson, U.S. Consulate General Mumbai*

10:35-11:00 Keynote Address

- Rear Admiral Michael Baker, *Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, New Delhi*
- Vice Admiral Girish Luthra (Retd.), *former Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command*

11:00-12:30 U.S.-India Cooperation in Next Level Warfare

- Need for the U.S.-India defense partnership for 21-st century modern warfare. Understanding the dimensions of Hybrid warfare as a subset of statecraft that uses the diplomatic, informational, military, and economic (DIME)
- Assessment of strategic trade, STA-1, cyber and technology partnership. The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies to build open, accessible, secure, and resilient technology ecosystems and value chains
- Underwater to Space warfare domain: U.S.-India Roadmap of co-production and co- development of weapons and preparedness
- The Procurement of General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs and co-production of dual-use of drones, AI/ML in combined war exercises
- Outcomes and way forward of the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) for establishing a robust collaboration agenda to harness innovation

Chair & Moderator: Rahesha Sehgal, Anchor, WION News

Panelists

- **Lt. Gen. Subrata Saha (Retd.)**, *Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff*
- **Lt. Gen. Sanjay Verma (Retd.)**, *Former Director General Weapons and Equipment, Ministry of Defence and Consultant, DRDO*
- **Alaric Diniz**, *Partner, Aerospace & Defence, Deloitte, India*
- **Sandhya Sharma**, *Editor, Technology Policy and Foreign Policy, ET Prime*

12:30-13:45 Networking with Lunch

13:45-15:30 Significance of U.S.-India Naval Collaboration

- India's National Security Apparatus including Maritime Security on the Eastern Coast of Africa and Arabian Sea. The Strategic Defense Partnership in the Indo-Pacific Region
- Enhancing ISR Capabilities of India's Armed Forces, and establishing a Comprehensive Global MRO facility in India. The relevance of Master Ship Repair Agreement
- Coastal Surveillance Network, Information Sharing and Placement of Liaison Officers in each other's Military Forces
- Strengthen maritime security cooperation, including through enhanced underwater domain awareness, joint production of submarines, frigates and vessels among others
- Significance of United States Indo-Pacific Command and Decoding Integrated Maritime Theatre Command System of India

Chair & Moderator: KP Vijayalakshmi, Professor & Head, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal University

Panelists

- **Cmde. Srikant B Kesnur (Retd.)**, *Former Director of the Maritime Warfare Center in Mumbai*
- **Cmde. Mukesh Bharagava (Retd.)**, *Deputy Chairman, Defence & Aerospace Committee, FICCI Gujarat and Senior Advisor, Defence & Aerospace Committee, CM Madhya Pradesh*
- **Capt. Nikunj Parashar (Retd.)**, *founder, Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd*
- **Shrikant Paranjpe**, *Honorary Adjunct Professor, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University*

15:30-15:45 Closing Remarks

- Representative, *CUTS International*