

Defense News Conclave

Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership

DEFENSE MODERNISATION IN INDIA: POLICIES, COMMANDS AND CAPABILITIES

Workshop III | Friday, July 29, 2022

Time: 1100 – 1300 hours (IST)

(Virtual)

Registration [Link](#)

Background and Context

Under the [Defense News Conclave Project](#), CUTS International will be organizing a series of defense workshops for 100-120 journalists and diverse media professionals on defense-related issues. These workshops will cover the entire gamut of India-U.S. bilateral defense relations, particularly in the context of the maritime domain and the Indo-Pacific. This is the third in a series of workshops on this subject.

Objectives

- Act as a capacity-building initiative for media professionals
- Facilitate a meaningful dialogue to understand how the media stakeholders are thinking about defense-related issues

Expected Outcomes

- A platform for free-flowing interaction and discussions on defense-related issues between experts and participants at the workshops
- Participants have a more informed view of important defense and strategic matters, and an enhanced capacity to report and write on such issues

AGENDA

The past few years have seen significant reforms across the defense sector in India – from military command and organisational structures, to procurement and acquisition policies. These, along with the strategic decision-making processes, are among the most complex and least understood areas in this sector. The objective of this workshop is to take stock of the structural reform path that India has embarked upon in the defense sector, how successful it has been, and what the way forward should look like.

Coverage

- Evaluating the need to articulate a National Security Strategy and a National Defense Policy for India
- Assessing recent military reforms in India, including the creation of the office of the Chief of Defense Staff, the prospects of establishing joint theatre commands, and service reforms such as *Agneepath*
- Reforming defense budgeting, procurement, manufacturing and R&D related policies for increased defense preparedness
- Modernising Indian military for 21st century warfare by building capabilities in the domains of undersea, cyber, space, and related warfare

Moderator

- **Maroof Raza**, Media Commentator, National Security Issues

Speakers

- **Capt. Anubha Rathaur**, Defence Expert and Academician
 - **Manvendra Singh**, Former Member of Parliament and Chairman, Soldier Welfare Advisory Committee, Rajasthan
 - **Sanjay Mitra**, Professor of Practice, IIT Delhi school of Public and Former Defence Secretary of India
 - **Cmde. Anil Jai Singh**, Maritime and Defence Analyst and Former Vice President, Indian Maritime Foundation
 - **Amit Cowshish**, Partner, Dua Associates and former Financial Advisor (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence
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