

Defense News Conclave

Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership

Workshop Backgrounder

Workshop I | Friday, May 27, 2022

THE RELEVANCE OF INDIA-U.S. DEFENSE RELATIONS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Background and Context

Under the *Defense News Conclave Project*, CUTS International will be organising 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.

Objectives

- Act as a capacity-building initiative for young 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 the 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

**Workshop I | Friday, May 27, 2022
1100 – 1230 hours (Virtual)**

THE RELEVANCE OF INDIA-U.S. DEFENSE RELATIONS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Over the years, the nuclear deal, India's designation as a Major Defense Partner of the U.S., and strategic convergence in the Indo-Pacific region have taken the India-U.S. strategic relationship to new heights. The shift in geopolitical attention to the Indo-Pacific has made India-U.S. strategic and defense relations even more relevant in the present context. The status of this relationship will be a deciding factor in the shaping of security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region. The objective of this workshop is to examine India-U.S. defense and strategic relations within the broader context of the Indo-Pacific region.

Session Coverage

- The evolution of the concept of 'Indo-Pacific' and its growing importance.
- Evaluating the nature of multilateral arrangements in the Indo-Pacific region through the prism of power projection and defense diplomacy.
- Assessing the need for a National Maritime Strategy and addressing maritime security through maritime domain awareness and naval cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- Complementing defense collaboration with economic partnerships in trade, connectivity, and energy networks in the Indo-Pacific for broad based prosperity and security in the region.
- Sustainable ocean governance in the Indo-Pacific region.

Resource Persons

- **Jyoti Malhotra**, Senior Consulting Editor, *ThePrint* (Moderator)
- **Sanjaya Baru**, Distinguished Fellow, United Service Institution of India and Member, Management Board, CUTS International Washington DC Center
- **Cmde. Sujeet Samaddar**, Founding Member, SAMDeS and former Principal Director, Naval Plans
- **Indranil Banerjee**, Analyst, Foreign Policy and National Security Issues