

# Defense News Conclave

## *Stories of U.S. - India Defense Partnership*

### QUARTERLY NEWS WRAP

#### *Issue #1, October-December 2021*

U.S.-India defense relations are moving from strength to strength. While 2021 saw both countries being ravaged by the pandemic, the year also witnessed fresh impetus to bilateral defense ties. There were various developments in defense policy, defense trade and innovation in the past few months. Overall deepening of the bilateral relationship on the strategic front was propelled by multiple high-level meetings between the two sides.

Recent developments in U.S.-India defense cooperation through inking bilateral agreements, conducting joint military exercises and expanding defense trade indicate the immense potential for flourishing defense relations between the two democracies. This holds greater importance for both India and the U.S., in light of the challenging geopolitical scenario both in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

Through the project titled, '[\*Defense News Conclave: Stories of U.S.-India Defense Partnership\*](#)', CUTS International and USIBC aim to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders and the wider public about the importance of U.S.-India defense relations. It also seeks to counter possible wrong narratives based on misinformation/disinformation that seek to undermine the growing defense partnership.

The first edition of this Quarterly News Wrap covers prominent developments in U.S.-India defense relations in the past quarter.

## HIGHLIGHTS

<p><b>Don't Let Sanctions Chill Warming Ties with India</b></p> <p><i>Editorial Board, Bloomberg</i></p> <p>November 17, 2021</p>	<p>Most important, India is plainly cooperating with the U.S. on other security matters — one of the key conditions for a <a href="#">sanctions waiver</a>. As a member of the Quad along with the U.S., Japan and Australia, India is contributing to efforts to manufacture Covid-19 vaccines, secure critical supply chains, and maintain a “free and open” Indo-Pacific region. It has also been conducting more military exercises with the U.S. and its allies.</p>
<p><b>Striking a New Global Balance of Power with India</b></p> <p><i>David C. Mulford and John Rivera-Dirks, The Hill</i></p> <p>November 15, 2021</p>	<p>As it shares a disputed border with China, India must maintain the <a href="#">economic and military wherewithal</a> to resist bullying by Beijing. India is in effect, like Taiwan, a second front to China. India will soon have the largest population in the world of over 1.4 billion people, half under the age of 25, many of whom will serve in the second-largest military and the world’s seventh-largest navy.</p>
<p><b>Indo-US cooperation to Boost Economic Dynamism, says Rajnath Singh</b></p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i></p> <p>September 15, 2021</p>	<p>While naming the American firms' presence in the country, Singh claimed that the firms will majorly invest in Defence. "The American Firms such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing already have a major presence in India and I am confident that other American firms will find India as a <a href="#">major investment destination</a> for Defence Manufacturing," Singh said.</p>
<p><b>American Chinooks, Howitzers and Cruise Missiles to back India against China in Eastern Tibet</b></p> <p><i>Sudhi Ranjan Sen, The Economic Times</i></p> <p>October 29, 2021</p>	<p>India has <a href="#">deployed</a> recently-acquired US-made weaponry along its border with China, part of a new offensive force to bolster its capabilities as the countries remain deadlocked over disputed territory in the Himalayas. The buildup in India’s northeast is centered on the Tawang Plateau adjoining Bhutan and Tibet, a piece of land claimed by China but controlled by India.</p>
<p><b>‘Unwavering’ US Commitment for Key Defence Ally India</b></p> <p><i>Chidanand Rajghatta, The Times of India</i></p> <p>September 26, 2021</p>	<p>Unmistakable signs that defence cooperation between the two countries is being upgraded notwithstanding traditional US disquiet over New Delhi’s broad array of military hardware acquisition from other nations came in a statement in which Biden pledged “<a href="#">unwavering commitment to India as a major defence partner</a>”, including strengthening cooperation in advanced military technologies.</p>

## OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

<p><b>India &amp; US hold 11th Defence Technology &amp; Trade Initiative Group Meeting Virtually</b></p> <p><i>Press Information Bureau, Government of India</i></p> <p>November 10, 2021</p>	<p>The aim of the <a href="#">DTTI</a> Group is to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment. Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within their domains.</p>
<p><b>Readout of 16th U.S. – India Defense Policy Group</b></p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Defense</i></p> <p>October 8, 2021</p>	<p>Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl co-chaired the <a href="#">16th U.S.-India Defense Policy Group</a> alongside Defense Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar of the Indian Ministry of Defense, October 8, 2021. The Dialogue advanced an ambitious set of bilateral priorities – including information-sharing, high-end maritime cooperation, logistics, and defense trade – reflective of the flourishing defense ties between the United States and India.</p>
<p><b>India and US to set-up Joint Working Group in Defence Industrial Security</b></p> <p><i>Press Information Bureau, Government of India</i></p> <p>October 01, 2021</p>	<p>The Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) summit between India and the United States was held between September 27 to October 01, 2021 at New Delhi. The summit was organised to develop protocol for the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the nations. During the summit, both the sides agreed in-principle to establish the <a href="#">Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group</a>.</p>
<p><b>Readout of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's Meeting with Indian Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Bipin Rawat</b></p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Defense</i></p> <p>September 30, 2021</p>	<p>Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III met with India's Chief of Defense Staff, General Bipin Rawat, during his first visit to the Pentagon, Sept. 30, 2021. The two leaders <a href="#">exchanged views</a> on priorities for advancing the U.S.-India defense partnership, including through enhanced cooperation in new defense domains such as space, cyber, and emerging technologies.</p>
<p><b>Readout of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl's Meeting with Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla</b></p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Defense</i></p> <p>September 3, 2021</p>	<p>Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin H. Kahl spoke with Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla today to <a href="#">reaffirm</a> the strength of the defense relationship between the United States and India. India is the only designated Major Defense Partner of the United States.</p>

## POLICY MATTERS

<p><b>Concept of Integrated Deterrence Will Be Key to National Defense Strategy, DOD Official Says</b></p> <p><i>Jim Garamone, DOD News</i></p> <p>December 08, 2021</p>	<p>The concept in this case also means integration of all instruments of national power. Most importantly it means being "<a href="#">integrated across our allies and partners</a>", which are the real asymmetric advantage that the United States has over any other competitor or potential adversary," Kahl said.</p>
<p><b>Why CAATSA Sanctions Will Impinge on India-US Strategic Relations</b></p> <p><i>Akshobh Giridharadas, News18</i></p> <p>December 05, 2021</p>	<p>As India-US defense ties expand, military exercises become more frequent, the Indo-Pacific cooperation and maritime security becomes stronger and the Quad and the Middle East Quad begin to fructify, Washington and Delhi do not need any <a href="#">inadvertent policy</a> to preclude great strategic initiatives.</p>
<p><b>In Defence, the Twin Transformations</b></p> <p><i>Anit Mukherjee, Hindustan Times</i></p> <p>November 17, 2021</p>	<p>India's political establishment deserves significant credit for the <a href="#">twin transformations</a> currently underway - both within the military and in the ministry. Indeed, it has displayed bold leadership in pushing through measures such as the recent corporatisation of the ordnance factories.</p>
<p><b>Karnataka: Defence and Aerospace Policy by December, says Industries Minister</b></p> <p><i>Aksheev Thakur, The Indian Express</i></p> <p>November 11, 2021</p>	<p>Karnataka will introduce a <a href="#">defence and aerospace policy</a> by the end of December. The government is also coming up with a defence and aerospace park on 1,200 acres of land, which it claims is the first in the country.</p>
<p><b>Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021: Demonstration of Indo-US High Altitude Military Interoperability</b></p> <p><i>R. Vignesh, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses</i></p> <p>November 17, 2021</p>	<p>As the Malabar Exercise concluded on 15 October 2021, <a href="#">another joint military exercise</a> between the armies of the two largest democracies went underway in the far-flung Chugach Mountains of Alaska. Indian soldiers from the 7th Madras Infantry Battalion Group alongside American soldiers from the 40th Cavalry Regiment of the US Army engaged in intense training exercises focusing on combined arms manoeuvres under extreme cold climatic conditions.</p>
<p><b>US and India Discuss Staging Area for 'Over-the-Horizon' Forces</b></p> <p><i>Anita Joshua, The Telegraph India</i></p> <p>September 15, 2021</p>	<p>Washington is discussing with India a possible staging area for "<a href="#">over-the-horizon</a>" forces that are being talked about by the Joe Biden administration for maintaining the security situation in Afghanistan, US secretary of state Antony Blinken has indicated.</p>

## DEFENSE TRADE

### **Growing Defence Trade One of the Great Success Stories of India-US Ties: Garcetti**

*Lalit K Jha, Press Trust of India*

December 15, 2021

The [growing defence trade](#) between India and the US is one of the major success stories of the bilateral relation, US President Joe Biden's nominee for next envoy to New Delhi has told lawmakers.

### **India, U.S. monitoring defence trade projects**

*The Hindu*

November 10, 2021

As part of efforts for co-production and co-development of defence equipment under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI), India and the U.S. [agreed](#) on a revised Statement of Intent (SOI) to strengthen dialogue on defence technology cooperation by “pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress” on several specific DTTI projects, the Defence Ministry of India said.

### **Defence Ministry Pact with US to Procure MK 54 Torpedo, Expendables worth Rs 423 Cr**

*The Indian Express*

October 22, 2021

The defence ministry has signed a [contract](#) with the US government to procure MK 54 torpedo and expendables such as chaff and flares for the Indian Navy’s anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I at a cost of Rs 423 crore, its spokesperson said.

### **Powering up India’s Defence Manufacturing**

*Rajnath Singh, The Times of India*

October 14, 2021

Indian defence industry, primarily catering to the needs of the armed forces, has evolved with a diversified product mix and market. Propelled by the recent successes in exports, India is set to realise its potential as an emerging [defence manufacturing hub](#).

### **India-US: Defence Trade and Technology Initiative is the silent Enabler**

*Captain Vikram Mahajan (Retd.), Financial Express*

September 15, 2021

With the path having been paved for the projects under [DTTI](#) to flourish, it is time for execution. Both sides say they are committed to an ‘outcome-oriented’ DTTI that brings real results. Co-development and co-production of futuristic weapon platforms, that has not been envisaged so far, could take the bilateral relationship between US and India in defence to a new level of strategic cooperation.

### **India and US Sign Project Agreement to Co-develop Air-launched UAVs**

*Airforce Technology*

September 06, 2021

India and the US have announced the signing of a Project Agreement (PA) for an air-launched uncrewed aerial vehicle ([ALUAV](#)) under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) initiative.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

<p><b>Army sets up quantum computing lab, AI centre at engineering institute in Mhow</b></p> <p><i>The Indian Express</i></p> <p>December 12, 2021</p>	<p>The Army has set up a <a href="#">quantum computing laboratory</a> and a centre for artificial intelligence (AI) at a military engineering institute in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow. The two centres will carry out extensive research in developing transformative technologies for use by the armed forces.</p>
<p><b>India, United States, Israel Should Pursue a Defense Innovation Triad</b></p> <p><i>Sameer Patil, National Defense</i></p> <p>December 12, 2021</p>	<p>If these three like-minded and tech-savvy democracies join hands to bring together their defense innovation communities in Silicon Valley, Tel Aviv and Bengaluru, it will be a crucial step in materializing a new kind of <a href="#">trilateral defense partnership</a>.</p>
<p><b>Military Innovation is Just the Rocket Science India Needs to Push its Development Graph</b></p> <p><i>Tara Kartha, The Print</i></p> <p>November 15, 2021</p>	<p>In India, <a href="#">innovation by the armed forces</a> has only recently got the attention it deserves, with the military mainly being seen as the defender and not a developer. That latter role was left to the 'proper' institutions, leading largely to an iron wall between the two, and no commercial outflow. In recent days, that is changing, in small dramatic ways.</p>
<p><b>Lockheed Looking at Addressing India's Requirements for New-Age Military Solutions</b></p> <p><i>The Economic Times</i></p> <p>November 14, 2021</p>	<p>William Blair, the Vice President and Chief Executive of <a href="#">Lockheed Martin's India operations</a>, said the company is "well placed" to partner with Indian entities in areas of unmanned platforms, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and machine learning among others.</p>
<p><b>India-US Defence Expo Focuses on Space, AI Cooperation</b></p> <p><i>Deccan Herald</i></p> <p>November 09, 2021</p>	<p>The Second Defense Technology and Trade Initiative Industry Collaboration Forum (DICF) <a href="#">Virtual Expo</a> held on Monday "focused on securing supply chains in critical sectors such as semiconductors and partnering for innovation in emerging domains, such as semiconductors and partnering for innovation in emerging domains, such as AI and space", DoD Spokesperson Jessica Maxwell said.</p>
<p><b>Modi Shoots for Predator Drones and Other Critical Tech and Investments in Talks with US CEOs</b></p> <p><i>Chidanand Rajghatta, The Times of India</i></p> <p>September 23, 2021</p>	<p>Getting American nuclear-powered submarine technology may be a bit of a stretch for an India that is tied to the hip with Russia in this sphere, but acquiring <a href="#">US Predator drones</a> is not a pie in the sky anymore.</p>

## INDO-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

<p><b>Indian Navy Needs More New Technologies to Meet Emerging Challenges in Indo-Pacific</b>  <i>Huma Siddiqui, Financial Express</i>  December 03, 2021</p>	<p>Maritime security threats in the Indian Ocean, humanitarian missions and a steady move towards augmenting its blue-water navy role is pushing the navy towards procuring autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) from domestic industry, with possible <a href="#">collaboration</a> with the US.</p>
<p><b>Strategic Significance of Admiral Michael Gilday’s Visit to India</b>  <i>R.Vignesh, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses</i>  November 17, 2021</p>	<p>Successive American governments over the last decade have identified India as a crucial link in their <a href="#">Indo-Pacific</a> rebalancing efforts. This was first reflected in their “National Security Strategy” document released in December 2017, which describes the Indo-Pacific region as a geopolitical arena where competition between free and repressive perspectives of global order is taking place.</p>
<p><b>Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh Delivers Keynote Address at Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2021</b>  <i>Press Information Bureau, Government of India</i>  October 26, 2021</p>	<p>The Raksha Mantri pointed out that while the seas offer abundant opportunities for sustenance and growth of the mankind, they pose challenges such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and climate change. He called for a <a href="#">cooperative response</a> to these challenges which, he said, has considerable trans-national implications. “There is a need to find convergence of interests and commonality of purpose on maritime issues,” he added.</p>
<p><b>Expand IOR Cooperation, Says US as Malabar Starts</b>  <i>Rajat Pandit, The Times of India</i>  October 13, 2021</p>	<p>The ongoing <a href="#">Malabar Phase-II</a> exercise, after the first one was conducted off Guam in end-August, has nine warships and a submarine – including the over 1,00,000-ton Nimitz-class super aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson with its 90 fighters and aircraft – taking part in the extensive combat manoeuvres in the Bay of Bengal.</p>
<p><b>Avoiding a Collision Course with India</b>  <i>Sameer Lalwani and Tyler Sagerstrom, War on the Rocks</i>  September 12, 2021</p>	<p>Far more than the last American soldier departing Afghanistan, <a href="#">sanctions on a burgeoning strategic partner</a> could set back U.S.-India cooperation a decade or more, constrain Indian capabilities to generate a balance of power and influence in Asia, and raise doubts over U.S. reliability amongst many Southeast Asian swing states.</p>
<p><b>Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021 (PACS-21)</b>  <i>Press Information Bureau, Government of India</i>  September 03, 2021</p>	<p>Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria PVSM AVSM VM ADC, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) attended the <a href="#">Pacific Air Chiefs Symposium 2021</a> (PACS-21) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii from 30 Aug to 02 Sep 21. The event themed "Enduring Cooperation towards Regional Stability" was attended by Air Chiefs from countries in the Indo-Pacific region. CAS was nominated as the Dean for the Symposium.</p>

## RELEVANT EVENTS AND VISITS

S. No.	Events/Visits	Major Outcomes
1.	Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with a United States <a href="#">Congressional Delegation</a> (November 13, 2021)	Support for deepening the U.S.-India comprehensive global strategic partnership
2.	U.S.-India <a href="#">11th Defence Technology &amp; Trade Initiative Group</a> (November 10, 2021)	Dialogue on defence technology cooperation; development of niche technologies; opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment
3.	<a href="#">Defence Policy Group</a> (October 9, 2021)	Advanced a set of bilateral priorities - sharing information; high-end maritime cooperation; defense trade
4.	U.S.-India Defence Industry Collaboration Forum <a href="#">Virtual Expo</a> (November 8, 2021)	Aims to deepen industrial cooperation- jointly research, develop, and produce warfighting capabilities
5.	Meeting between <a href="#">Secretary Blinken and Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar</a> (October 30, 2021)	Discussed efforts to deepen the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership
6.	Meeting of the <a href="#">U.S.-India Counter Terrorism Joint Working Group and Designations Dialogue</a> (October 26-27, 2021)	The two sides pledged to further expand cooperation on law enforcement, information sharing, exchanging best practices, and increasing strategic convergence on counter terrorism challenges
7.	Meeting between U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, <a href="#">Admiral Michael Gilday and Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar</a> , Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command (October 15, 2021)	Dialogue on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR); enhancing maritime safety and security in the region; strengthening U.S.-India cooperation
8.	Meeting between Indian Foreign Secretary, <a href="#">Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Admiral Michael Gilday</a> , U.S. Chief of Naval Operations (October 12, 2021)	Dialogue on U.S.-India defence relations; ongoing maritime cooperation
9.	Meeting between Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral <a href="#">Michael Gilday and Ajendra Bahadur Singh</a> , Vice Admiral (October 13, 2021)	Dialogue on issues of common interest between navies

10.	17th Edition of Indo-U.S. <a href="#">Joint Military Exercise</a> (October 15-29, 2021)	Enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between the two armies
11.	Phase II, <a href="#">Maritime Exercise Malabar 2021</a> (October 12-15, 2021)	Enhance naval synergy, coordination and interoperability; joint surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises
12.	Meeting between U.S. Deputy Secretary of State <a href="#">Wendy R. Sherman</a> and Indian <a href="#">Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla</a> (October 7, 2021)	Reviewed ongoing collaboration under the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership
13.	Meeting between <a href="#">Deputy Secretary Sherman</a> and Indian <a href="#">Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar</a> (October 6, 2021)	Discussed regional developments and implementing the outcomes from the recent meeting between President Biden and Prime Minister Modi
14.	Meeting between <a href="#">Prime Minister Modi</a> and <a href="#">President Biden</a> (September 24, 2021)	The leaders reviewed the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and potential for strengthening bilateral cooperation further
15.	<a href="#">Quad Leaders' Summit</a> (September 24, 2021)	Leaders reiterated their commitment and shared vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region
16.	Meeting between <a href="#">Deputy Secretary Sherman</a> and Indian <a href="#">Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla</a> (September 2, 2021)	Discussed coordination on Afghanistan, strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation through the Quad, and preparations for the upcoming 2+2 Ministerial
17.	<a href="#">U.S.-India 2+2 Intercessional Dialogue</a> (September 1, 2021)	Discussed bilateral and multilateral joint service engagements, as well as ways to advance cooperation in new domains, such as space, cyber, and emerging technology areas



U.S. Consulate General  
Kolkata

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**USINDIA**  
BUSINESS COUNCIL

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