



# Defense News Conclave

## *Stories on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership*

### **Dialogues on ‘Deliverables to Deliveries’**

**Friday, August 4, 2023**

**Time: 0915 – 1400 hours (IST)**

**Hotel Peerless Inn, Kolkata**

#### **Background and Context**

Under the [Defense News Conclave Project](#), supported by the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata, 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 the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership in general and its relevance for the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership in the Indo-Pacific region in particular. Among others, they will look at the milestones set and achieved, 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 a better understanding of the relevance and nuances of the 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.

**09:15-09:45 Registration and Networking with Tea/Coffee**

**09:45-10:00 Opening**

- **Bipul Chattopadhyay**, Executive Director, CUTS International

**10:00-10:15 Keynote Address**

- U.S. Army Attaché, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

**10:15-10:30 Networking with Tea/Coffee**

**10:30-12:00 Significance of U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership**

- U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership through joint production, transfer of technology, etc. including maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region
- Evolution of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, India's SAGAR Policy, etc.
- Success stories of joint military exercises in the Indo-Pacific region, MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operation) facilities; intelligence sharing, including interoperability in the Indo-Pacific region

**Chair & Moderator**

- **Lieutenant General Subrata Saha**, *Former Member of the National Security Advisory Board and Deputy Chief of Army Staff*

**Panelists**

- **Shekhar Dutt**, *Former Governor of Chhattisgarh and Defense Secretary of India*
- **Chintamani Mahapatra**, *Founder and Honorary Chairman of Kalinga Institute of Indo-Pacific Studies*
- **Manu Pubby**, *Senior Editor, Economic Times*
- **Arun Ramchandani**, *Executive Vice President, L&T Defense*

**12:00-13:30 Recent Initiatives on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership**

- The role of public-private partnership in joint defense-industrial cooperation, including technology transfer for advanced weapons production
- Assessment of strategic trade and technology partnership, including the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies, India-U.S. Strategic Trade Partnership
- The success story of FE414 jet engine, P-81 Poseidon, etc.
- Why and how to detect and counter mis/disinformation on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership

*Chair & Moderator*

**Indranil Banerjee**, *Senior Analyst and Freelance Journalist*

*Panelists*

- **Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha**, *Former Chief of Air Staff and President, CENERS-K*
- **Partha Roy Chowdhury**, *Commercial Lead, Lockheed Martin India*
- **Col. Baljinder Singh (Retd.)**, *Director, Aerospace and Defense, USISPF, India Office*
- **Sucharita Bhattacharjee**, *Policy Analyst, CUTS International*

**13:30-14:00 Closing**

- **Adrian Pratt**, *Acting Consul General and Director, American Center, US Consulate General Kolkata*
- **Arnab Ganguly**, *Associate Director, CUTS International*

**14:00 Networking with Lunch**