



# Defense News Conclave

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

### **Dialogues on “Deliverables to Deliveries”**

Tuesday, February 06, 2024 | 1000 – 1530 hours (IST)

[Hotel Raintree, St Mary’s Road, Chennai](#)

#### **Background and Context**

Under the [Defense News Conclave Project](#), supported by the U.S. Consulate General Kolkata and the U.S. Department of State, CUTS International is organising five workshops covering consular districts of the U.S. Consulate Generals. They aim to create a group of informed stakeholders in India for strengthening the U.S.-India Defence and Security Partnership by generating necessary awareness of diverse media professionals and other relevant stakeholders.

Each workshop will be over two sessions focussing on good practices of the U.S.-India Defence 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, 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 a better understanding of relevance and nuances of the U.S.-India Defence 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 defence-related technologies for promoting a positive narrative on the U.S.-India Defence 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 the U.S.-India Defence and Security Partnership
- More and better information about good practices on U.S.-India Defence 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 Defence Partner of the U.S., signing of foundational defence-related agreements and large number of joint military exercises in the Indo-Pacific region have taken the U.S.-India Defence 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 (IPEF), 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 Defence 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 Defence and Security Partnership.

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

**10:20-10:40**                    **Welcome Remarks**

- **Pradeep S Mehta**, *Secretary General, CUTS International*
- **Christopher W Hodges**, *Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Chennai*

**10:40-11:00**                    **Keynote Address**

- **S Christopher**, *former Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)*

**11:00-12:30**                    **U.S.-India Industrial and Strategic Collaboration**

- Underwater to Space warfare domain: U.S.-India Industrial collaboration, Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) for establishing a robust collaboration agenda to harness innovation, and joint impact challenges for India-U.S. defence collaborations
- Bottlenecks in 'Innovations for Defence Excellence' (IDEX), especially small arms, cyber and space technology. Opportunities and collaborative agendas
- Potential areas for DRDO and DARPA collaboration and the need for joint R&D in critical and emerging technologies
- Expanding the role and credibility of MSMEs in India to enhance defence start-ups and collaborations with viable knowledge-sharing mechanisms

**Chair & Moderator: Snehesh Alex Philip**, *Senior Associate Editor, The Print*

**Panellists:**

- **Air Marshal M Matheswaran (Retd.)**, *Founder Chairman and President, The Peninsula Foundation*
- **Lt. Gen. Anil Ahuja (Retd.)**, *Indian Co-Chair of the U.S.-India Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Inter Agency Task Force and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS WDC*
- **Wg. Cdr. Madhusoodhanan (Retd.)**, *Vice President, Aerospace and Defence, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Cooperation Ltd.*
- **T Suvarna Raju**, *former Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited*

**12:30-13:45            Networking with Lunch**

**13:45-15:15            Security Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region**

- Understanding of U.S.-India cooperation in an open, free, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, the Quad in the IOR and the cognizance of India's stance as a Net Security Provider (NSP) in the region
- Freedom of Navigation (FON) system of India and the U.S. are in alignment in the IOR through programs like the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series and Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT)
- Establishing ship refurbishment and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities. The relevance of Master Ship Repair Agreement and making India a global MRO hub
- Coastal Surveillance Network, Information Sharing and Placement of Liaison Officers in each other's Military Forces, global maritime security cooperation

**Chair & Moderator: Harinder Sekhon**, *former Intelligence and Strategic Analyst, National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India*

**Panellists:**

- **V. Adm. MP Muralidharan (Retd.)**, *former Director General, Indian Coast Guard*
- **Cmde. S Vasan (Retd.)**, *Director General, Chennai Centre for China Studies and Regional Director, National Maritime Foundation, Tamil Nadu*
- **Vijay Sakhuja**, *former Director, National Maritime Foundation*
- **G Balachandran**, *former Consultant, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA)*
- **Nikhil K Rao**, *Managing Director and Chief Engineer, Boeing India Engineering, Tamil Nadu*

**15:15-15:30            Closing Remarks**

- **Purushendra Singh**, *Assistant Director, CUTS International*