



# INDO-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

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## India-U.S. Ties and the Shaping of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**The Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF) is an informal coalition of civil society organisations (NGOs, think tanks, etc.) working across the region toward realising a shared vision of peace, security, stability, and prosperity.**

<https://cuts-wdc.org/indo-pacific-forum.htm>

*On the last day of his official State visit to the U.S., Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) in Washington DC, highlighting the promising avenues this growing relationship offers for everyone. Modi began his speech by declaring that the India-U.S. ties have the potential to change the destiny of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In a reference to Indian Americans, he called them the pillars who have made significant contributions to America's growth story.*

Explaining that India has the biggest solution to the problem of the future-ageing, Modi said, "India is the world's youngest nation. We have the youngest talent pool in the world. Hence, countries collaborating with India are bound to benefit."

He stated that the partnership between the U.S. and India is in the interest of both countries and their people. Investments by American companies in India over the last 2-2.5 years stand at about US\$16bn. Offering an insight into the thrust on infrastructure laid by his

government, he informed that India, today is investing a record US\$125bn in infrastructure, which offers a plethora of opportunities for prospective collaborators. Putting in place a robust infrastructure helps it act as a force multiplier for broader economic growth.

Enthused by the growing defence cooperation between India and the U.S., Modi indicated that strategic alignment between the two countries will ensure that more activity is expected in this sector, particularly the aviation segment. He also remarked that "The Indo-U.S. Defence Partnership is building a special kind of relationship with the people of each state. Apache helicopters manufactured in Arizona, Super Hercules of Georgia's C30s and others are strengthening India as well as America's defence and aero sector."

Notably, on the eve of Modi's visit, a couple of big-ticket defence deals were announced between India and the U.S., with the latter agreeing to co-manufacture GE 414 engines for fighter aircraft as well as committing to supply 31 MQ - 9B armed drones to the former.

Against the backdrop of growing institutional cooperation between India and the U.S., an affirmation by the political leadership is truly promising for what could be the most consequential relationship for the world in years to come.



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## IPEF Reaches Supply Chain Agreement

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) member countries have come so far since the group's establishment a year ago suggesting that there is a near-unanimous view about supply chain vulnerabilities.

On May 31, 2023, a press release from the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia said that the 14 members of the IPEF "announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations" of an IPEF Supply Chain Agreement.

The negotiations took place at the IPEF Ministerial Meeting in Detroit, Michigan. The agreement, touted as "a first-of-its-kind international IPEF Supply Chain Agreement," includes the 14 IPEF partner countries.



*(TD, 02.06.23)*

### India-U.S. Enhance Export Controls

India and the U.S. pledged to streamline their export control regimes for critical technologies at the inaugural India-U.S. Strategic Trade Dialogue (IUSSTD), as senior delegations led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and the U.S. Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and Under Secretary for Commerce Alan Estevez met in Washington on June 06, 2023.

The talks came just ahead of Modi's visit to Washington when several high-technology partnerships, including a deal that will involve GE-414 jet engine sales to India, are on the cards.

*(TH, 07.06.23)*

### U.S. Pushes India to Join IPEF Trade Pillar

The U.S. wants India to join the trade pillar of the 14-nation bloc IPEF and wants to conclude negotiations on all pillars by the end of 2023.

While India remains open to examining proposals by the U.S. on IPEF's trade pillar, experts said India has been reluctant to join the IPEF trade pillar to protect local industry and livelihoods in the agricultural sector. India has already joined three pillars of IPEF on supply chains, a clean economy, and a fair economy.

*(CNBC TV18, 21.06.23)*

### Indo-Pacific Trade Talks to Conclude

Negotiations over a U.S.-led Indo-Pacific trade pact are likely to yield results this year, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said. Momentum is growing for the 14-nation economic initiative known as the IPEF with the next round of talks set in Singapore in May 2023, Tai said.

The pact, which includes nations accounting for 40 per cent of the global economy, demonstrates its trade commitment to the region.

*(ET, 21.04.23)*

### U.S.-China Tariff Review Unaffected

The U.S. is taking an analytical approach to its review of whether to keep tariffs on Chinese goods in place and will not base outcomes on any "breakthrough" in U.S.-China trade relations, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi said.

According to Bianchi, in an interview following the conclusion of the ministerial meeting of the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework talks, the Biden administration remains cautious about anticipating any significant breakthrough with China. However, they are committed to maintaining an ongoing dialogue with China at multiple levels.

*(Reuters, 30.05.23)*

### U.S.-INDOPACOM hosts Indo-Pacific Meeting

John C. Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, hosted a virtual meeting with the Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence to discuss their security priorities for 2023.

The meeting brought together senior military leaders from 24 countries and focused on reflections on the impacts and risks of climate change as outlined by the report all countries received in November 2022.

Aquilino shared his thoughts on the opportunities and challenges within the Indo-Pacific region with a focus on how the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) will continue to work closely with Allies and partners to ensure a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. *(USINDOPACOM, 27.04.23)*

### Quad Leaders to Uphold Peace & Stability

India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan, a group known as Quad pledged to uphold peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and 'oppose unilateral actions seeking change in *status quo* by force.'

The Quad leaders, in a joint statement, condemned terrorism and violent extremism in 'all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism.' The statement mentioned the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai and on the Indian Air Force's airbase in Pathankot. *(HT, 20.05.23)*

### Italy to Deploy Naval Patrol Vessel

Italy will send a naval patrol vessel, the *Morosini*, to the Indo-Pacific, Italian Ambassador to India Vincenzo de Luca said, in a sign of growing Western interest in the strategically important region.

Following the groundwork laid by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's visit to India in March 2023, Italy will also step up its defence engagement with India in technologies like unarmed aerial vehicles, torpedoes, flight control systems and electronic defence equipment. *(Livemint, 10.04.23)*

### EU Reaffirms Indo-Pacific Commitment

The European Union (EU) reiterated its commitment to strengthening ties and cooperation with the Indo-Pacific region at the second EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum held in Stockholm.

In the wake of Russia's aggressive actions against Ukraine, the meeting underscored the global interconnectedness and the importance of building resilient, inclusive societies.

It was a significant step forward in implementing the EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, which was initiated at the 2022 Paris Forum. *(F2F, 15.05.23)*

## Japan-South Korea Overcome Historical Hurdle for Stronger Ties

Japan-South Korea's rapprochement in the last two months has an invaluable significance for the Indo-Pacific region. The genesis of the closer ties between Japan and South Korea can be traced back to November 2022 when 'the Phnom Penh Statement on U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Partnership for the Indo-Pacific' was issued.

Though this was the second trilateral meeting, it was in this meeting that a firm resolve was made 'to forge still-closer trilateral links, in the security realm and beyond.'

*(ToI, 09.05.23)*



### Institute of South Asian Studies



The ISAS was established in July 2004 and is dedicated to research on contemporary South Asia. It seeks to promote understanding of this vital region of the world and communicate knowledge and insights about it to policymakers, the business community, academia and civil society, in Singapore and beyond.

In this quarter, ISAS published some [Briefs](#) about the Indo-Pacific region.

[www.isas.nus.edu.sg/](http://www.isas.nus.edu.sg/)

### Perth USAsia Centre



June 2023 marked both the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Perth USAsia Centre and a new era for Western Australia's Indo-Pacific engagement after the appointment of Premier Roger Cook. The change in Western Australia's leadership serves as a timely reminder to evaluate Australia's broader connection to the Indo-Pacific and explore opportunities to strengthen relationships with near neighbours.

Accordingly, the Centre has released three reports that explore how Australia can advance key relationships in Southeast Asia and with the U.S. It invited applications for its [online micro-credential course](#) which outlines Australia's role on the international stage.

<https://perthusasia.edu.au/>

### Bay Area Council Economic Institute



Bay Area Council Economic Institute is a leading think tank focused on the economic and policy issues facing the San Francisco/Silicon Valley Bay Area.

This is one of the most dynamic regions in the U.S. and the world's leading centre for technology and innovation. The Institute has recently published an article on [India and Silicon Valley](#).

[www.bayareaeconomy.org/](http://www.bayareaeconomy.org/)

### Australian Risk Policy Institute



Positive global feedback has been received on the ARPI Perspectives to resolve the Ukraine situation, on the Limitations of Artificial Intelligence and the Intelligence Augmentation solution, and on redefining the meaning of 'Resilience' particularly as it applies to critical global infrastructure.

ARPI has just released an [updated version](#) of the International Consumer Bill of Rights 2023, adding consumer rights to privacy, protection, service and truth in multi-media and government communications. The updated Consumer Bill of Rights 2023 will be presented shortly to the United Nations and OECD.

[www.arpi.org.au](http://www.arpi.org.au)

### Innovative Economy Forum



Innovative Economy Forum, an incorporated corporation, aims to be an open platform where any experts and entrepreneurs who agree and practice the vision of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and innovative economy in Korea can participate.

In addition, it contributes to the preparation and promotion of related policies of the National Assembly, political parties, and the government through policy production and distribution led by the private sector. It recently published articles on [Mineral Supply Chains](#) and [G7 Summit 2023](#).

<http://innoeco.org>

### The Hinrich Foundation



The Hinrich Foundation is a unique Asia-based philanthropic organisation that works to advance mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade. It believes sustainable global trade strengthens relationships between nations and improves people's lives.

During the quarter, it published articles on [FDI](#), [Digital Trade](#), [WTO](#), and [Sustainable Trade](#) among others.

[www.hinrichfoundation.com/](http://www.hinrichfoundation.com/)

ET: The Economic Times; F2F: Fibre2Fashion; HT: Hindustan Times; TD: The Diplomat; TH: The Hindu; ToI: The Times of India; USINDOPACOM: U.S. Indo-Pacific Command



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