



Defense News Conclave

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

Prime Time: Dialogues on “Deliverables to Deliveries”

Thursday, July 11 – Friday, July 12, 2024

[Venue: The United Service Institution of India](#)

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 this project. The project deliverables 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. The project covers 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.

This conclave is being held in association with the United Service Institution of India ([USI](#)) and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum ([USISPF](#)). This conclave 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 the U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership, especially in the context of evolving geopolitical, including geo-strategic and geo-economics, 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
- 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.
- More and better information about good practices in 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 Quadrilateral group, 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.

<u>Day 1</u>	
14:00-15:00	Registration and Networking with Tea and Coffee
Welcome Session	
15:00-15:10	• Maj. Gen. BK Sharma (Retd.), Director General, United Service Institution of India
15:10-15:20	• Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International
Inaugural Session	
15:20-15:35	• Ambassador Eric Garcetti, Ambassador of USA to India
15:35-15:50	• Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary, NEST (New Emerging & Strategic Technologies) Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
15:50-16:00	• Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President & Chief Executive Officer, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum
16:00-17:00	Session I: Celebrating India-U.S. Defense Ties: The Most Consequential 21st Century Partnership • Analyzing the historical shift and evolution of mutual strategic interest between U.S.-India, stories of landmark events and agreements between U.S.-India • Ongoing initiatives, joint exercises, and collaborations by evaluating the effectiveness of existing foundational agreements • Strategizing ways including role of media to address mutual challenges and enhance synergy in the face of evolving geopolitics in the west and the east • Discussing potential areas of growth and avenues for strengthening the India-US defense partnership in the coming years • Future of U.S.-India Defense Partnership sustaining a strong, innovative and resilient defense industrial base and step toward defense modernization and global security Moderator • Lt Gen Anil K Ahuja, Founding Co-chair, India-U.S. DTTI, Inter Agency Task Force (DIATF) and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS WDC Panelists • Ashley Tellis, Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs and a Senior fellow Carnegie Endowment for International Peace • Brig. Arun Sahgal (Retd.), Senior Fellow, Strategic and Regional Security, Delhi Policy Group • Capt. Sarabjeet Parmar (Retd.), Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies, USI • Pramit P Chaudhuri, Head of India Practice, Eurasia Group
17:00-17:15	Networking with Tea/Coffee

17:15-18:30	Session II: Above & Beyond: Bilateral Partnership in Space and the Indo-Pacific • Understanding the scope of this bilateral partnership from sea to space • Possibilities and challenges for space security, importance of the Artemis Accords and cooperation in space domain awareness • Increasing the role of partner countries in the Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean region. Enhancing ISR Capabilities of India's Armed Forces, and establishing a comprehensive global MRO facility in India • Enhancing maritime security and underwater domain cooperation in the larger Indo-Pacific by conducting joint maritime patrols and exercises, combating piracy and illegal fishing • Exploring information exchange and capacity building for regional partner countries • Tools to promote ocean diplomacy with sustainable development initiatives in the Indo-Pacific, addressing challenges like climate change and fostering economic growth. Moderator • Lt Gen. Anil Kumar Bhatt (Retd.), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISpA) Panelists • Admiral Karambir Singh, Former Chief of the Indian Naval staff • Air Chief Marshal R.K.S Bhadauria, Former Chief of the Indian Air Staff • Group Captain (Dr.) Ajey Lele (Retd.), Deputy Director General, Manohar Parrikar -Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) • Maj Gen. RS Yadav, Director, Center for Strategic Studies & Simulation, United Service Institution of India • Pooja Bhatt, Independent Researcher and Geopolitics Analyst
18:30-18:45	Tea/Coffee
18:45-20:15	Session III: CEOs of Bilateral Partnership: Co-design, Co-develop & Co-produce • Discussing strategies to build a modern defense industrial ecosystem, essential pillars for building a roadmap for industrial collaboration • Analyzing the pivotal role of MSMEs in both U.S. and Indian defense landscapes, examining the impact of government policies and regulations in both the countries, challenges and opportunities for MSMEs to plug into this ecosystem • Assessing joint R&D, enhancing skills and capabilities including critical workforce in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and advanced innovation and manufacturing • Exploring initiatives to boost defense exports, buttressing initiatives such as INDUS-X, iCET and 'Make in India, Make for World' • Catalyzing defense technology & innovation cooperation and building a resilient supply chain, bridging American OEMs with Indian industry, increasing joint ventures and twinning of MSMEs

	<i>Moderator</i> • Col. Baljinder Singh (Retd.), Director, Aerospace & Defense, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) <i>Panellists</i> • Jasbir Singh Solanki, CEO, Homeland and Cyber Security Division, Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd. • Kriti Upadhyay, Founder, IndUS Tech Council • Partha Roy Chowdhury, Commercial Lead, Japan, India & Bangladesh, Lockheed Martin • Praveen P A, Director, Aerospace & Defence, Government of Telangana • Samit Ray, Deputy Vice President, Government Affairs & Public Policy South East Asia, RTX, Raytheon Technologies Corporation • Vrinda Kapoor, CEO, 3rdiTech
20:15	Networking with Dinner

Day 2	
08:30-09:30	Registration and Networking with Tea and Coffee
09:30-09:35	Opening Remarks • Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International
09:35-09:45	Welcome Remarks • Rear Admiral Michael Baker, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
09:45-10:00	• Shri Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) Ministry of Defence, Government of India
10:00-11:30	Session IV: The Fourth Pillar of Democracy: Informed View of U.S.-India Defense Relations • Role of media and journalism in forming the right views of general public, turn of the century and welcoming the new partnership of the century • Detecting and countering misinformation and disinformation on U.S.-India Defense and Security Partnership • The success story of F414 jet engine, P-81 Poseidon, and sharing experiences of field visits to bilateral exercises, joint-production plants • Tools to combat new-age fake and deep fake news and misinformation. Understanding disinformation in the digital age, new-age journalism and information warfare • Sharing good practices among the regional media journalists, dissemination process of informed news and constant need for innovation in social media Moderator • Maj. Namrata Dhasmana (Retd), Geopolitics Analyst Panellists • Dinakar Peri, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu • Manu Pubby, Senior Editor, Economic Times • Nayanima Basu, Editor – Diplomacy and Defence, ABP LIVE (ABP Network) • Rahesha Sehgal, Foreign Affairs Anchor, WION • Snehesh A Philip, Defence and Strategic Affairs Editor, The Print
11:30-11:45	Networking with Tea/Coffee
11:45-13:15	Session V: The Road Ahead: Indo-U.S. for the ‘Global Good’ • Next Steps within the U.S.-India defense partnership, overcoming potential challenges, promoting shared interests, and mutually addressing frameworks of ITAR export controls, IPR related concerns. • Promoting incentives for joint production for access to high technology and developing a joint technology & innovation collaboration mechanism. • Taking things forward within the Quad framework, and securing free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific, and Indian Ocean region including maritime and underwater domains. Working together on multilateral and plurilateral frameworks and complimenting

	• Comprehensive Global & Strategic Partnership. • Roadmap for mid-to-long term policy options, sustaining political will and long-term commitment to the partnership by building bipartisan support, institutionalising partnership mechanisms, regular high-level engagements among others. • Recommendations and policy interventions for further strengthening the U.S. - India defense and security partnership.
	<i>Moderator</i> • Lt Gen Subrata Saha, Former Deputy Chief of the Army Staff and Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) <i>Panellists</i> • Ashley Tellis, Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs and Senior Fellow Carnegie Endowment for International Peace • Harinder Sekhon, Former Intelligence and Strategic Analyst, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Distinguished Fellow, CUTS WDC • KP Vijaya Lakshmi, Professor & Head of Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal. • Lt. Gen. Vinod Khandare (Retd.) Principal Adviser, Ministry of Defence, Government of India
13:15-13:25	<i>Closing Remarks</i> • Gloria Berbena, Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi
13:25-13:45	<i>Vote of Thanks</i> • Purushendra Singh, Assistant Director, CUTS International
13:45	Networking with lunch